

## SECTION IX.

*Argillaceous Genus.*

## 1st Class.

*Argillaceous Earths.*

THESE are for the most part diffusible in water, and do not immediately sink in it as sands do; or if so compact as immediately to sink, they soften, crumble, or moulder away in it, some sooner, some later, either to a ductile viscid pulp, or to a powder.

Hardness, scarce ever exceeds 6; they harden when heated; scarce ever effervesce with acids, and are difficultly soluble in them.

As earths originally received their denominations from external and not from internal characters, they cannot now, without creating much confusion, be arranged according to their real specific properties, if any such could be assigned. But in fact none such can, except fusibility or infusibility, which depend on proportions and ingredients both mutable and casual. Hence I shall sort them under the title of different Tribes; marking the cases in which these are found to be more or less fusible, or adapted to various uses.

1st Tribe.