

NATIVE METALS

AND

METALLIFEROUS MINERALS.

INCLUDING such metals as are found nearly pure in the native state; or variously combined with other substances, forming metalliferous ores; as, with other metals, with sulphur, with oxygen; also in the state of oxides, mineralized by acids; beginning with the oldest and most universally diffused of the metals—Iron.

NATIVE IRON.

	Gediegen Eisen, W.	Fer Natif, H.	Octahedral Iron, M.	
	Agram.	Siberia.	Mexico.	Atacama.
Iron	96·5	98·5	96·75	93·40
Nickel	3·5	1·5	3·25	6·62
Cobalt	0·0	0·0	0·00	0·53
	Klaproth.			Turner.

Sp. Gr. 7·44 to 7·8. H. = 4·5.

Primary form the regular octahedron. Colour pale steel-grey; lustre metallic; acts powerfully on the magnet; is soluble in all the acids.

Native iron has been noticed under three different forms.

1. At Kamsdorf in Saxony, disseminated through a mass of brown oxide of iron mingled with spathose iron and sulphate of barytes; in this Klaproth found about 6 per cent. of lead, and 1·5 of copper. It is not however considered a natural production; but, like the native steel from La Bouiche in France, appears to be of secondary formation. The American mineralogists, however, describe a variety from Canaan in Connecticut, which forms a vein about two inches thick in mica-slate.

2. Native volcanic iron. Fer natif volcanique, H. Was discovered in a ravine formed by torrents across the lava and scorïæ of the mountain of Graveneire, in Auvergne.

3. Native meteoric iron. Fer natif meteorique, H. This occurs in irregular isolated masses, sometimes of very considerable size, in different parts of the globe: but the only piece described