

Spring valley and are employed for foundations and as flagstones. This rock originally was probably a sandstone, but has been highly metamorphosed, so that its original clastic structure is no longer apparent. It is a hard resistant rock divided by parallel layers of mica into thin slabs.

The sandstone product in Maryland in 1896 aggregated \$35,969.

THE SERPENTINE.—Serpentine is employed both as a building stone and, when polished, for interior decoration. The chief deposits in Maryland are found in Harford and Cecil counties and are the product of alteration of the peridotite, which has been already described. The rock is very hard and is a rich emerald green in color, semi-transparent and clouded with darker streaks of included magnetite. Maryland serpentine has been used for interior decoration in several large buildings in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, and has great possibilities as a decorative stone. The attempts at developing the stone have been only partially successful hitherto, because of the hardness of the material, the expense of extracting and polishing it, and the manner of quarrying. Only \$1,000 worth of serpentine was quarried in Maryland during 1896.

MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS.—The black *gabbro*, which has been described already as a common rock in the eastern division of the Piedmont Plateau, is available to some extent as a building stone. The rock weathers to a deep red soil, in which rounded boulders of the unaltered rock are found. These are locally known as "niggerhead," and as they have to be cleared from the fields, they are extensively used in building stone fences, foundations, etc. They are rarely used in the construction of whole buildings, although that is sometimes done. The rock is so extremely hard and tough that it cannot be economically quarried and dressed, and is therefore seldom used in that form.

The *chlorite schist* found at Westminster, Carroll county, has been quarried to some extent as a local building stone. It is of a grayish green color, with even texture, and is easily worked. Several public and private structures have been made from this material.