

gany county, has for a long time been highly regarded. There are numerous cold chalybeate springs scattered throughout western Maryland, but there has been as yet no attempt to introduce the waters or develop the properties upon which they are situated.

Very few springs of mineral water of more than local reputation are reported from the Coastal Plain. The Mardella of Wicomico county is very well known and the waters have been placed upon the market. Several other springs, which have only a local value, are reported from the eastern and southern counties, among them a sulphur spring situated at St. Michael's, Talbot county.

#### THE ROAD MATERIALS.

The state of Maryland is well provided with road-building materials, although their character varies widely, some being far better adapted for the purpose than others. The question of transportation is, however, so important that the stone of greatest value cannot always be employed, yet there is no section of the state where there are not some materials sufficiently close at hand to render them available.

The best road-building materials in Maryland are the basic igneous rocks, which are found well developed throughout the area of the Piedmont Plateau. Of these there are several types, viz., the gabbro, the peridotite and pyroxenite, and the diabase. The gabbro or "niggerhead" rock, as it is locally called, is most widely distributed and occupies an extensive area throughout the eastern portion of the Piedmont belt in Cecil, Harford, Baltimore, Howard and Montgomery counties, the largest regions being found in central Harford and southern Baltimore counties. This rock is rather tough and difficult to work, but affords a valuable and permanent road metal. The peridotite and pyroxenite are not as extensively developed, but occupy very much the same area as the gabbro. These magnesian rocks are somewhat more easily worked than the gabbro, but do not have their wearing qualities. The most valuable of all these rocks is the diabase, which is so extensively used for road-building purposes in New England and New Jersey and which occurs in several long and narrow outcrops in Baltimore and Howard counties, but far better developed