

Phelps, 4 feet, 2 inches of sandstone. In the central and eastern part of the State this formation is an interrupted deposit having at some exposures the character of an arenaceous limestone 1 to 3 feet thick while at Union Springs, Onondaga Valley, Oriskany Falls and other localities it is a friable, light colored and rather coarse sandstone containing an abundance of fossils. It attains a thickness of more than 20 feet in a lentil in the northeast corner of the town of Skaneateles, Onondaga co.¹

Onondaga limestone

This important deposit is a compact, dark bluish gray limestone bedded in layers from 3 inches to 2 feet thick and carrying interbedded nodules and nodular layers of chert.

The limestone contains a large amount of carbonaceous matter, which appears in the shaly partings and on the surface of the layers discoloring and giving them a black appearance. This carbonaceous admixture is removed by slow decomposition on exposure and the rock then assumes a very light bluish gray color.

The chert, as a rule, is nearly black and slightly translucent, but sometimes lighter colored and bluish. It is very unevenly distributed in the beds; in some it largely predominates and in others it is entirely absent. It forms nodular layers which are frequently continuous for long distances. Outcrops of these and boulders of the cherty limestone that have been long exposed present a peculiarly ragged and scraggly appearance, owing to the superior resistance to decomposing agencies that the chert possesses over the limestone.

At some outcrops a very small portion of the formation is shaly, but all of the remainder wherever the amount of chert is not too large, is somewhat compact and durable and exceedingly valuable as building stone and for the production of quicklime.

At the base of the formation, filling the depressions in the Cobleskill waterlime and varying greatly in thickness, there occurs a stratum of limestone almost entirely free of chert, and embracing lenses of considerable extent wholly composed of corals.

The latter stratum is but 5 inches thick in the bed of Scajagada creek at the Main street bridge; 7 feet in an old quarry in Forest Lawn cemetery; 5 feet, 6 inches in the park quarry; 5 feet in the southern part of the Buffalo Cement Co.'s quarry and less than 2 feet in the northern. It is a veritable coral reef, 35 feet

¹These lentils of sandstone in the strike of the Oriskany formation have been described by Clarke. Amer. Ass'n: Adv. Sci. Proc. 1900; Science. Dec. 28, 1900.