



**The Natural History of Waters, Earths, Stones,  
Fossils, and Minerals, Vol. 5: With Their Virtues,  
Properties and Medicinal Uses; To Which Is  
Added, ... Has Treated These Subjects (Classic  
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*R. Brookes*

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Excerpt from The Natural History of Waters, Earths, Stones, Fossils, and Minerals, Vol. 5: With Their Virtues, Properties and Medicinal Uses; To Which Is Added, the Method in Which Linnæus Has Treated These Subjects

In this county we meet with but two Mineral waters, one at Sunning-hill in Windsor-Forest, which i, of the same nature as the Tunbridge waters; and the other at Comner, or Cumner, three miles west of Oxford. This last waster is always of a whitish colour, especially in the summer time when the well is low; the reason of which appearance is said to be owing to its proceeding from line-stone. Oil of Tartar being dropt therein, causes it to let fall a white sediment; and Spirit of Hartshorn turns it to a pearl-colour; but with the Solution of Silver it turns to a purplish pearl colour, and with Syrup of Violets, green. A gallon of this water will yield 296 grains of sediment, whereof 76 grains are lime-stone, and the remainder a calcarious nitre. The sediment is dark brown, with a saltish and very bitter taste; and will ferment with Vinegar as well as with Oil of Vitriol, and will also turn green immediately with Syrup of Violets. The salt itself is of a yellowish brown colour, and has a saltish, nauseous, bitter taste. It is a kind of calcarious nitre, but inclines more to an alcali than most others of this class. It is not much frequented; but it is known that a quart of it will purge a robust country fellow.

Cornwall. The mineral springs in this county, have never been taken notice of 'till very lately, and it is by Mr. Borlace in his survey of Cornwall. Madern Well is only a spring of pure water, and it rises in the parish of Madern, four miles west of Penzance. However, it is resorted to by many people that are afflicted with pains, aches, and stiffness of the limbs; and it has done many cures, which many be only owing to the coldness and purity of the spring.

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