

*Characters*—The Ocala limestone ranges in color from pure white through cream-color to yellow. Its texture is commonly granular, but parts of it have been converted into hard, compact rock by the deposition of travertine or calcite in its interspaces. In some places it consists of a loosely coherent mass of foraminifers, bryozoans, and other small organisms, a mass so porous that water can percolate freely through it; elsewhere it is finer grained and more compact, though still pervious to water.

The free circulation of water through the Ocala limestone has facilitated the solution of the rock. Funnel-shaped cavities, most of them filled with clay and sand and some containing bones, lead downward from the surface and connect with ramifying underground passages. The solution of the limestone has at many places been accompanied by the deposition of silica, either as sheets or as irregular masses of chert (flint) or as pseudomorphous replacements of shells or granules. Some of these pseudomorphs preserve with great fidelity the original form and sculpture of the shell. Such replacements commonly occur only near the surface, though layers of chert are encountered at considerable depth in some wells.

In chemical composition as in physical character the Ocala limestone is remarkably uniform. It consists almost entirely of carbonate of lime and in places contains as little as four-tenths of one percent of impurities. The lower part of the formation as exposed only along the Choctawhatchee River near the Alabama line is sandy and shaly.

*Thickness*—The thickness of the Ocala limestone is difficult to determine because the top of the rock is an eroded, uneven surface, and the bottom has not been certainly identified. At Claiborne, Alabama, it is little more than 50 feet thick (Cooke, 1926a, p. 275); at Albany, Georgia, it is said to be about 300 feet thick (Prettyman and Cave, 1923, p. 79); in a well at Live Oak, Suwannee County, whose log is reported by Mossom (1926, p. 222), white limestone containing Ocala fossils extends from a depth of 110 feet to 300 feet, where it is succeeded by light cream-colored to brown limestone, presumably the Tallahassee limestone; in a well at Anthony, Marion County (Mossom, 1926, p. 225), the drill apparently passed out of the Ocala at a depth of 110 feet,