The Tuscarora sandstones and conglomerates of Kittatinny (Blue) Mountain contain some stone suitable for building purposes but they have been little used. So far as known, no stone of this kind has ever been quarried in Lehigh County. Some of the blocks from the talus slopes have been used but only in small quantities. The finest structure in the county built with this stone is Jacobs Church, Jacksonville, Lynn Township. The red variety, long known as the Red Medina sandstone, was used. It was built in 1926. The stone as loose blocks was obtained from the mountainside about 1 mile to the northwest. "The structure is random rock-faced ashlar, and the abundant pink, red, gray and light tan colors give a warm and cheerful aspect to the beautifully designed church." (Stone 1933)

This source of building stone is worthy of more consideration than it has received up to the present time. There is an abundance of stone in the mountain, it is extremely durable, and possesses attractive qualities. In general the beds are massive so that considerable equipment would be necessary for the operation of a quarry.

Within the Martinsburg formation, which is so abundantly represented in the northern part of the county, there are calcareous sandstones that have been used locally for foundations, walls, and occasional small structures. The stone is gray when fresh but becomes ferruginous brown on exposure. This change is due to the oxidation of the fairly abundant small grains of pyrite in the fresh rock. Although dark in color it is nevertheless attractive in appearance.

Gneisses.—Elsewhere in Pennsylvania the pre-Cambrian metamorphic gneisses have been quarried extensively for structural stone but in Lehigh County they have been used sparingly. This is mainly due to the fact that the expense of quarrying is high on account of the toughness of the rock. The initial expenditure involved in opening a quarry is also great on account of the decomposition of the exposed rock. On the surface the gneisses of all kinds are so broken by the action of frost or so greatly decomposed that much waste rock must be removed to reach good stone. Below the zone of freezing the stone is broken by joints into large irregular blocks that could be handled economically only by expensive mechanical equipment. The irregularity of the joints would cause an excessively large amount of rock to be discarded as waste, although this condition may not prevail everywhere. As large quantities of crushed rock for concrete and ballast are required in the industries of the region and in making permanent roads, market might be found for the rock that is unsuited for building stone.

The gneisses of the county furnish a wide variety of stones, ranging from dark-brown hornblendic to light granitic rocks, some of which are beautifully banded and others present a uniform appearance.

The gneisses contain no objectionable minerals, except in a few localities where pyrite is a common constituent. The chemical and physical character of the rocks make them very durable as building stones under all climatic conditions.

A few attractive residences, churches, and barns in the county have been built of the local gneisses. In almost all of them, only loose