

was to manufacture tools and implements out of the pieces of rough native copper by the miners. Others were engaged in procuring and transporting food and other necessities of life, and still others were employed in collecting and transporting from the shores of the lake the rounded, water-worn boulders of diorite and porphyry, which were used by the miners as **hammers and sledges**.

Many of these stone hammers have been grooved by manual attrition or impact for the purpose of fastening them into withes or split handles, but by far the greater number are unwrought, rounded boulders which have been held in the hand when in use. Mr. A. C. Davis, now of the Menong mine, informed me that at one place, near the mouth of the Ontonagon River, he had seen quite an area of ground strewn with stone chips and broken and discarded pieces of diorite and porhyry, indicating it to have been a workshop for preparing the hammers before being transported inland.

The ancient miners made few mistakes in the selection of deposits to be wrought. In almost every instance, in the places where they had carried on extensive mine work, have been wrought the successful mines of these latter days. This fact is often quoted to advance the idea that those ancient people were gifted with some mysterious knowledge, by which they were able to discover and trace out mineral veins and lodes. This day, when the divining rod is lost to faith, and the mysteries of the alchemist have been opened to full light by the science of chemistry, should be too late for such a superstition. The explorers of today have, as aids to discovery, the dip and traverse needles, and still the most experienced and observing of them in the reconnoissance of the surface which overlies beds of magnetic iron ore, where the needles develop the most actively, are simply enabled to approximate conclusions; and are only satisfied when a full development has been made by a system of costeaning. It may be considered improbable that the ancient miners possessed any aid approaching to the value of the magnetic needles of the present day. It is far more reasonable to assume that the ancient miners, following comparatively close upon the recession of the glaciers, occupied the country at a period before the action of the elements had dis-