Hvorledes bliver Myremalm til?

Om den Maade, hvorpaa Myr-malm (: Jernmalm, som findes i Myrer :) bliver til, har Professor Hitchcock i sin finale report on the geology of Massachusetts, &c: anført følgende derom:

In the western part of Worcester county, and over a large extent of territory, the process by which this ore is produced and deposited, is so manifest, that it deserves description. The gneiss rock there, abounds with the sulphuret of iron. This is continually undergoing a decomposition, by the action of heat, air, and moisture; and become changed, first into an oxide, and then, some of it into a sulphate. The oxide usually imbibes more or less of carbonic acid from the atmosphære, and is changed into a carbonate; which is soluble in water. Or this oxide, being washed from the rocks by rain into cavities; meets with water containing

carbonic acid, by which it is dissolved. Once dissolved, it is readily transported to ponds and swamps, and there deposited by the evaporation of the water. In the region above referred to, this process may be witnessed in all its stages. By breaking the rock we find the sulphuret unchanged; while the surface is coated over with the oxide, sulphate and carbonate. The soil, also, to a considerable depth, exhibits very strikingly the color of iron rust; and in the low grounds the bog ore is abundant. —

Probably a similar theory will apply to the production of this ore in other parts of the State; though I know of no spot where the process is so obvious as in Worcester County. Indeed, the fact that very many of our bog ore deposits are buried several feet deeply in soil, and occur on dry ground, shows that in those places the process of its formation has long since

ceased. In several ponds in the southeast part of the State, it is said however, that it is forming rapidly. —

Since iron is a mineralizer of organic substances, we might ~~often~~ expect to find organic remains in bog ore. In that of Massachusetts, I have noticed only vegetable relics. In New Brain, tree the culms, spikes, and spikelets of grasses — mostly of carex — are common. The spikes and spikelets especially, are very distinct and perfect. Even the natural color of the fruit is sometimes preserved; and to appearance it seems to be unaltered, but examination shows the whole to be only iron ore. I have a specimen of the trunk of the alder from N Hampshire, perfectly mineralized by oxide of iron. —

Syn. Hydrate of iron, or Bog-ore,
S. 730. —