

THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

AT a meeting held in the quarters of the Department of Mineralogy at Harvard University on December 30 a group of 28 mineralogists from all sections of the United States, including representatives from Canada, organized a new society to be known as the Mineralogical Society of America. This action was the outcome of a movement started at the Albany meeting of the Geological Society of America in 1916 for the bringing together into a permanent organization of workers in science whose interest lay largely or wholly in mineralogy, crystallography or those allied sciences which include physical crystallography and mineral synthesis.

A provisional Constitution and By-Laws were adopted which defined the object of the society as the advancement of mineralogy, crystallography and the allied sciences and provided for several forms of membership, as follows:

1. *Fellows*, who are to be nominated by the council, must qualify for eligibility by having produced some published results of research in mineralogy, crystallography or the allied sciences. Fellows are eligible for office in the society and may vote upon amendments to the Constitution.

2. *Members*, who comprise persons who are engaged in or interested in mineralogy, crystallography or the allied sciences, but who are not qualified for fellowship. Membership carries with it the right to vote upon all matters except the amendment of the Con-

stitution, but members are not eligible for office.

The Constitution also provides for *Patrons*, who shall have conferred material favors upon the society and *Correspondents*, or residents outside of North America who are sufficiently distinguished in the subjects for which the society stands to warrant their receiving this recognition.

Because it was recognized that the comparatively small attendance at the meeting did not adequately represent the probable initial membership of the society, the lists of charter fellows and members have been kept open until a later meeting of the society.

It is expected that the general membership of the society at the close of 1920 will number some 350 to 400 fellows and members.

It was decided to publish a journal devoted to mineralogy, crystallography and the allied sciences, which shall be the official organ of the society, and which the general membership of the society shall be entitled to receive. The present plan is to enlarge the *American Mineralogist* to include research papers and abstracts, but at the same time to retain the valuable features of this publication which has become recognized as of permanent interest to such collectors and amateurs who are eligible to membership but not fellowship. The council of the society has under consideration the question of affiliation with the Geological Society of America.

The provisional officers of the new society which were elected at the December meeting are: President, E. H. Kraus, of the University of Michigan; Vice-president, T. L. Walker, of the University of Toronto; Secretary, H. P. Whitlock, of the American Museum of Natural History; Treasurer, A. B. Peck, of the Bureau of Standards, Washington; Editor, E. T. Wherry, of the Bureau of Chemistry, Washington; and Councilors, A.

S. Eakle, of the University of California (1 year); F. R. Van Horn, of the Case School of Applied Science, Cleveland (2 years); F. E. Wright, of the Carnegie Geophysical Laboratory, Washington (3 years); and A. H. Phillips, of Princeton University (4 years).

The formation of a society whose object is to promote and foster the mineralogical sciences comes at a time when there is a distinct need in this country for such a body. The growing importance of this field of research, already felt to a marked degree in the period preceding the war, has now with the necessary curtailing of scientific activity in Europe, assumed scope and size. It is acknowledged by observers of the trend of events that scientific prestige has come to abide in America rather than in the countries of the Old World. No more keenly is this tendency sensed than in those industries which are demanding trained workers in crystallography and physical mineralogy for their research laboratories. If then, science is to keep pace with industry in this period of reconstruction and if our universities and technical schools are to supply to the increasing stream of students coming to us from abroad, the high standard of scientific education which has come to be demanded of us, it is eminently right and fitting that such specialized bodies as the Mineralogical Society of America should be formed and fostered.

HERBERT P. WHITLOCK,

Secretary