

FEINBAULICHE WESEN DER MATERIE NACH DEM VORBILDE DER KRISTALLE (*Am. Min.*, 8, 13, 1923; also *Am. Min.*, 7, 161, 1922) will be greatly welcomed by all interested in this important subject, especially by those who experience difficulty in reading German. The translation is very well done and the illustrations, notably the portraits, are much superior to those appearing in the original volume.

EDWARD H. KRAUS.

MIKROSKOPISCHE MINERALBESTIMMUNG MIT HILFE DER UNIVERSALDREHTISCHMETHODEN. M. BEREK. Large 8-vo., 168 pages, with 55 text figures, 5 tables, and 6 diagrams. Gebrüder Borntraeger, Berlin, 1924.

Methods for the determination of minerals by means of the Universal rotation-apparatus, which by experience have been found to be of practical value, are discussed in considerable detail. The text is designed for those who are fairly well grounded in optical mineralogy and microscopic technique.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

### NEW YORK MINERALOGICAL CLUB

*Regular Monthly Meeting of December 17, 1924*

A regular monthly meeting of the New York Mineralogical Club was held in the East Assembly Room of the American Museum of Natural History on the evening of December 17, at 8:15 P.M. The President, Dr. George F. Kunz, presided and there was an attendance of forty-five members.

The committee on membership reported favorably on the following names submitted at the November meeting: Lewis W. Mac Naughton, 654 Bergen Ave., Jersey City, N. J.; and Dr. Paul F. Kerr, Department of Mineralogy, Columbia University. These gentlemen were unanimously elected to membership. The President submitted the name of Alfred E. Hammer, Branford, Conn., for life membership. The membership committee reported favorably upon Mr. Hammer's membership and he was elected unanimously.

The President then introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. Charles Palache of Harvard University, who addressed the Club upon "*The Minerals of the Maine Pegmatites.*" Dr. Palache spoke of his early recollections of the Paris locality 30 years ago, mentioning among the names of the old local collectors that of Norris Merrill. He touched upon the history of Mount Mica, the most famous of the Maine localities for gem tourmaline, and mentioned the rose quartz and lilac lithia mica as being characteristic of the Maine pegmatite localities. He spoke of the discovery of gem apatite on the Pulsifer farm on Mount Apatite in 1905 as the result of a search for tourmaline, and also spoke of the Littlefield farm quarry from which many fine tourmaline and other minerals have come. In touching on the Norway locality the speaker recalled Mr. Noyes, the artist, a keen collector of crystals who found the ledge of tourmaline in this locality. This ledge was the Greenwood Mine that Dr. Palache bought and worked for Harvard University. The speaker exhibited some problematical pseudomorphs from this locality which Dr. Warren has described as "after topaz." He told of the working of the Greenwood ledge in 1923, which, although producing some interesting minerals such as amblygonite and pinkish apatite, turned out to be on the whole not a profitable

venture. The quarry at Buckfield which was being worked as a feldspar quarry developed toward the end of that same summer (1923) one of the largest cavities ever found in Maine. This vug which was ten feet in length was lined with quartz and feldspar as well as some of the rare manganese phosphates such as eosphorite, fairfieldite, lithiophilite, etc., which were formerly found at Branchville, Conn. Solution, producing honey-comb structure, was also characteristic of the Buckfield locality.

Dr. Palache mentioned a visit to the chrysoberyl locality, 20 miles north of Buckfield, which he described as being on the slopes of Ragged Jack Mountain. He spoke of the pollucite quarry owned by Mr. Bonny. In reviewing all these occurrences he dwelt on the alteration and replacement characteristic of many of the pegmatite localities. Speaking of the gem cutting skill that has developed among the Maine farmers, Dr. Palache showed lantern slides of and explained the ingenious machines for cutting the local gems invented by Dudley and Merrill, and spoke at some length on this comparatively unknown phase of the production of Maine gem minerals.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the speaker for his interesting and valuable address. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

HERBERT P. WHITLOCK, *Recording Secretary.*

#### PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

*Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, February 12, 1925*

A stated meeting of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date, with the vice-president, Mr. Trudell, in the chair. Twenty-seven members and four visitors were present.

Mr. Robert Kleinschmidt was elected a junior member. The names of Dr. Harry Winsor and Mr. Samuel Perlstein were proposed for membership.

Dr. Horace R. Blank addressed the society on "*Radioactivity in Minerals.*" The general nature of radioactivity was first described. All minerals containing radium or thorium are radioactive. Such minerals also contain the disintegration products of these elements, such as radium, mesothorium, helium, and lead. Radioactive minerals may be detected by their photographic effects and by the ionization which they produce in the surrounding air. The latter effect was demonstrated by the speaker with the aid of an electroscope. The age of the radioactive minerals as determined from the uranium: lead ratio was then discussed. The uses of radium and mesothorium were reviewed, and the talk was concluded by a brief mention of the principal radium producing localities of the world.

A resolution was passed instructing the secretary to convey the sympathy of the society to Mr. Vaux, the president, who is now confined to his home by illness.

Mr. R. M. Lane, a visitor, entertained the society by his personal recollections of the emery mines at Chester, Mass., at the time they were in active operation.

HORACE R. BLANK, *Secretary*