

newest member—hafnium. This was followed by talks from other members, all of whom had exhibits on display.

WM. H. BROADWELL, *Secretary*

NOTES AND NEWS

KOENIG MINERAL COLLECTION FOR UNIVERSITY

A gift of a valuable collection of minerals to the University of Pennsylvania has been announced by Dr. Frederick Ehrenfeld, Professor of Geology. The collection contains about three thousand specimens and is the gift of George E. Nitzsche. The collection was the property of the late George A. Koenig, who was Professor of Geology and Chemistry at the University for many years. The minerals were gradually acquired by Dr. Koenig from 1875 to 1910; and in 1923 the collection became the property of Mr. Nitzsche, who has just presented them to the University, together with a fund for their perpetual care and for adding specimens to it from time to time. The collection has been installed in the Geological Museum of the University and will be known as "The George A. Koenig Memorial Collection."

This was a significant gift, since the University, for many years, was pre-eminent in America for its Geological Department and Dr. Koenig was a contemporary and friend of John A. Rider, Edward Drinker Cope, Joseph Leidy and many other naturalists who were connected with the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Koenig also assisted in completing some of the great mineral collections in America, among them that of the late Clarence Bement, whose valuable collection, only within recent years, was sold to the New York Museum of Natural History.

With its many other special collections, the University now possesses one of the largest and most important collections of minerals in the United States. It has, however, always been cramped for space, and has never been able to display adequately, even some of the rarer specimens. If properly housed, the University's present Geological collections could easily fill a spacious Geological Museum building.

Mrs. Elsie Koenig Nitzsche has also presented the University with a bronze memorial tablet in honor of her father.—*The Pennsylvania Gazette*

Professor B. S. Hopkins of the University of Illinois has recently isolated the hitherto unknown element No. 61. Four hundred pounds of monazite residues yielded the element after repeated fractional crystallizations. The discovery is based on new lines found in the spectrum, bands in the absorption spectrum and lines in the x-ray spectrum. The new element has been named *illinium* with the chemical symbol *Il*. At the present time all but two of the ninety-two elements have been discovered. The missing elements are numbers 85 and 87.

A copy of Bulletin 31 of the United States National Museum publications dealing with The Minerals of Idaho, by Earl V. Shannon, has just been received. This volume of 480 pages and 19 plates contains a description of approximately 230 minerals found in Idaho. It is a comprehensive work on regional mineralogy and will be welcomed by all American mineralogists. A limited number of copies are available for free distribution by the Museum and may be had upon request by any interested party. After the exhaustion of the free quota a few additional copies

will be sold at 75 each by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

On September 21-22 of this year the Mineralogical Society (London) will celebrate its Jubilee. On those days there will be held in London a "reception and conversazione" and a dinner. Visits will also be arranged to mineral collections, museums, etc. After the celebration in London, and possibly also in the preceding week, excursions will be conducted to mineral localities in Cornwall, Devon and to the north of England. A cordial invitation is extended to the members of the Mineralogical Society of America to attend this celebration.

The Russian government announces that the geological committee of the Supreme Economic Council formed 215 scientific expeditions in 1925. These expeditions reported rich lead deposits in the trans-Baikal region, gold fields in the Aldan region of Siberia and important coal strata on Sakhalin Island. These explorations will be continued during 1926, the government having set aside \$1,500,000 for this purpose.

CORRECTION

CORRECTION TO ARTICLE, "DUMORTIERITE FROM NEVADA" APRIL, 1926, P. 95

The refractive index of alpha was determined from an obtuse bisectrix figure exhibiting the dispersion $\rho < \nu$. The wording of this part of the article gives the erroneous impression that the dispersion of the optic axes of the acute bisectrix as ordinarily stated is $\rho < \nu$. Wright and Allen have presented a means of expressing this dispersion of the acute bisectrix so that any possible misunderstanding will be avoided. Following their formula the dispersion of the dumortierite should read $2V_r > 2V_v$. Much better material is now being obtained than any available at the time the above article was written.

ERNEST E. FAIRBANKS

NEW MINERALS: NEW SPECIES

CLASS: OXIDES

Bromellite

G. AMINOFF: Ueber Berylliumoxid als Mineral und dessen Krystallstruktur. (Beryllium oxide as a mineral and its crystal structure). *Zeit. Krys.*, **62**, 113-22 (1925).

NAME: In honor of the early Swedish mineralogist, Magnus von *Bromell*.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: An oxide of beryllium. Formula: BeO. Analysis: BeO 98.02, CaO 1.03, BaO 0.55, MgO 0.07, MnO tr., Sb₂O₅ 0.29, Al₂O₃ 0.14, ign. 0.85; sum 100.68. Insoluble in acids.

CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC PROPERTIES: Hexagonal, dihedral pyramidal class. Combination of prism and base, rarely with pyramid. $a : c = 1 : 1.6288$. $p_0 = 1.8808$. $c : p = 62^\circ 00'$. $c = 4.36 \text{ \AA}$, $a = 2.68 \text{ \AA}$. Lattice similar to zincite.

PHYSICAL AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES: Color white. Uniaxial, positive. $\epsilon = 1.733$, $\omega = 1.719$. Cleavage prismatic, distinct. $H = 9$. Sp. gr. 3.017. Pyroelectric.

OCCURRENCE: Found at Långban associated with Swedenborgite. This is probably the unknown white mineral mentioned in the description of Swedenborgite.

DISCUSSION: The natural mineral is very similar to the artificial BeO. Aminoff points out the great similarity of bromellite to zincite. It is interesting to note the analogous occurrence of bromellite at Långban with zincite at Franklin.

W. F. FOSHAG