## NOTES AND NEWS

The British Museum of Natural History has purchased a magnificent crystal of beryl (aquamarine) of gem quality. It is 13 cm. high, has a diameter of 10–12 cm. and weighs 2505 grams. The beryl comes from Brazil. This gem is exceptional both for its size and for the perfection of its crystal development.

According to tests recently made by A. Mallock and reported in *Nature*, iridium is the hardest pure metal followed by molybdenum, tungsten and rhodium. Nickel is the hardest of the common metals and ranks fifth.

The Oklahoma State College conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science upon Professor W. A. Tarr, professor of geology at the University of Missouri and a member of the Council of The Mineralogical Society of America.

According to *Science* Dr. Henry S. Washington, of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution, has been nominated by the Italian government an officer of the Order of the Crown of Italy and has received from the Italian ambassador the cross of the order in recognition of his work on the rocks and volcanoes of Italy.

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## NEW MINERAL NAMES

### Comuccite

C. DOELTER: HANDBUCH DER MINERALCHEMIE, **4**, first half, pp. 481–482 (1926).

NAME: In honor of P. *Comucci* who analyzed the mineral (Atti R. Accad. Lincei, **25**, 11, 1926).

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: A sulfantimonide of lead. Analysis: Fe 3.99, Pb 37.86, Sb 36.01, S 21.54. Sum 99.40.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES: Lustre-metallic. Sp. Gr. 5.65.

OCCURRENCE: As lamellar fibrous masses from St. Georgio, Sardinia.

W. F. FOSHAG

### Hengleinite (=cobalt-nickel-pyrite)

C. DOELTER: HANDBUCH DER MINERALCHEMIE, **4**, first half, 643, 644 (1926).

NAME: In honor of A. *Henglein*, German mineralogist who described the mineral under the name "Kobaltnickelpyrit" (*Centr. Min.*, p. 131 (1914)).

W. F. F.

### Malladrite

FERRUCCIO ZAMBONINI AND GUIDO CAROBBI: Sulla presenza del fluosilicato sodico e di quello di potassio tra i prodotti dell attuale attivita del Vesuvio. (On the presence of the fluosilicate of sodium and of potassium among the products of the acutal activity of Vesuvius). *Rend. Accad. Lincei.*, Ser. 6, **IV**, 171–175 (1926).

NAME: In honor of Prof. A. *Malladra*, Director of the R. Observatorio Vesuviano.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: A fluosilicate of sodium, $Na_2SiF_6$. No analysis given but the composition deduced from its similarity to the artificial salt.

CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC PROPERTIES: Hexagonal.

OPTICAL PROPERTIES: Uniaxial, negative; birefringence weak. *n* less than water, approximately 1.31.

OCCURRENCE: Found as minute hexagonal prisms sometimes terminated by the pyramid, associated with avogadrite and hieratite among the sublimation products of Vesuvius.

W. F. F.

## Sursassite

JOHANN JAKOB: Sursassite, ein Mangansilikat aus dem Val d'Err (Graubünden). (Sursassite, a Manganese Mineral from Val d'Err, Graubünden). *Schweiz. Min. Petr. Mitt.*, **6**, 376–380 (1926).

NAME: From the Roman name of Oberhalbstein, *Sursass*.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: A hydrous silicate of aluminum and manganese: $5MnO \cdot 2Al_2O_3 \cdot 5SiO_2 \cdot 3H_2O$. Analysis: $SiO_2$ 34.91, $TiO_2$ 0.07, $Al_2O_3$ 22.50, FeO 1.36, MnO 28.67, MgO 2.80, CaO 3.17, $Na_2O$ 0.43, $K_2O$ 0.15, $H_2O$ (+) 5.79, $H_2O$ (−) none. Sum 99.88. Another analysis by Quervain is given.

CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC PROPERTIES: Probably orthorhombic.

PHYSICAL AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES: Color deep reddish brown to copper red. Biaxial, plane of the optic axes across the needles. Index of refraction high, between 1.75 and 1.76. Birefringence low. Pleochroism strong: X and Z = light yellow, Y = reddish brown.

OCCURRENCE: Found as small, dense radiated botryoidal masses in cracks in the radiolarian cherts of the manganese deposits of Val d'Err, Graubünden, Switzerland.

W. F. F.

## Tangeite

K. NENADKEWITCH AND P. VOLKOV: On a new mineral—tangeite from Tjujmujun. (In Russian). *Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. U. R. S. S.*, pp. 43–46 (**1926**). See also Ivan Kurbatoff, *Centr. Min.*, pp. 345–353 (**1926**).

NAME: From the locality, *Tange* Ravine, Tjujmujun. (Also given as tangueite).

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: A hydrous vanadate of copper and calcium, $2CaO \cdot 2CuO \cdot V_2O_5 \cdot H_2O$. Analysis: CaO 22.40, CuO 32.70, $V_2O_5$ 37.65, $H_2O$ 4.47, $SiO_2$ 0.98, $Fe_2O_3$ 1.02, $Al_2O_5$ 0.61, MgO tr. Sum 99.83. Another analysis is also given.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES: Color dark olive green.

OCCURRENCE: Found as fine fibrous and radiated botryoidal masses, fibrous spheroidal masses, spongy masses or as a fibrous crust. The tangeite is the crystalline analogue of the amorphous vanadate referred to as "Turkestan volborthite."

W. F. F.

## Weissite

WM. P. CRAWFORD: Weissite, a new mineral. *Am. Jour. Sci.*, ser. 5, **13**, 345–346 (1927).

NAME: In honor of Dr. Loui *Weiss*, owner of the Good Hope Mine.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: A telluride of copper, $Cu_5Te_3$. Analysis: Cu 45.84, Te 53.97. Sum 99.81. (Av. of 2 analyses).

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES: Color bluish black tarnishing black. Streak black. Luster shiny metallic. H=3. Sp. Gr. 6.

OCCURRENCE: Found at the Good Hope and Mammoth Mines at Vulcan, Gunnison Co., Colorado, in veinlets up to one inch across, associated with native tellurium, petzite, sylvanite, rickardite and pyrite.

W. F. F.

### Zincteallite (="Pufahlite")

FRIEDRICH AHFELD: Zinkteallite und alaskaite aus Bolivia. (Zincteallite and alaskaite from Bolivia). *Centr. Min.*, No. 12, 388–390 (**1926**).

NAME: In reference to its chemical composition a *zinc*-bearing *teallite*. (Probably intended to be "zinkhaltige teallite" and hence zinciferous teallite, abstr.).

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION: A zinciferous teallite. Formula: (Pb, Zn) $SnS_2$, Analysis: (on material admittedly too impure for a specific gravity determination), Pb 27.81, Sn 45.09, O 2.59, Zn 6.41, S 15.33, Fe 1.29, Sb 1.29, $Ag_2O$ .008. Sum 99.628.

DISCUSSION. This is the mineral described by the author in a preliminary paper under the name pufahlite. Found at the Ichocollo Mine, near Pazña, and also at Carguaycollo, 15 km. east of Station Rio Mulato, Bolivia.

W. F. F.

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## NEW DATA

### Chlorophoenicite

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION: William F. Foshag and R. B. Gage; *Jour. Wash. Acad. Sciences*, **14**, 362 (1924).

NEW DATA: William F. Foshag, Harry M. Berman and Robt. B. Gage; *Proc. U. S. National Museum*, **70**, 1–6 (1927).

CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC PROPERTIES: Monoclinic, habit elongated parallel to *b*. $a:b:c=2.357:1:2.153$. $\beta=105°34'$. Also $p=0.9135$, $q=2.074$, $e=0.2684$, $\mu=74°26'$. Forms *c* (001), *a* (100), *s* (106), *r* (102), *k* ($\bar{1}04$), *h* (203), *p* (111).

OPTICAL PROPERTIES: $2V=83°\pm2°$.

W. F. FOSHAG

### Trimerite

G. AMINOFF: Zur kristallographie des Trimerits. (The Crystallography of Trimerite), *Geol. För. Förh. Stockholm*, **48**, 19–43 (1926).

CRYSTALLOGRAPHY: Monoclinic: $a:b:c=2.0834:1:2.1130$. $\beta=59°51'$. The pseudohexagonal form is due to heteroaxial twinning produced by a rotation of 60° about the monoclinic axis of symmetry whereby (100) and (001) come together and (010) falls in the hexagonal basal plane. $a=7.60$Å, $b=16.11$Å, $c=3\times9.30$Å.

W. F. F.

### Buttgenbachite

H. BUTTGENBACH: Cristaux de connellite-buttgenbach. *Ann. Soc. Geol. Belg.*, **50**, pp. 3–8 (1926).

CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC PROPERTIES: Hexagonal, prismatic. $c=1.122$ (From measurements made under the microscope).

W. F. F.