

The lecture was illustrated by a series of lantern slides, a number of excellent maps and charts, and a large group of specimens representative of the minerals and rocks described.

HORACE R. BLANK, *Secretary*

PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Academy of Natural Sciences, December 5, 1929

A stated meeting of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date, Mr. Charles R. Toothaker presiding. Upon favorable recommendation of the Council Messrs. Albert Ackoff, James R. Eichna and Henry Guent were elected to Junior Membership. The names of Messrs. H. E. McNelly, A. E. Mason and Norman Booker were proposed for membership. The president read excerpts of an article on "Semi-precious Stones in the Soviet Union." Mr. Frederick H. Oldach addressed the meeting on "*Minerals in Pegmatite Veins.*" Beginning with the molten magma the speaker outlined the process of differentiation, introductory to the classification of the solidified magmas. He stressed the importance of studying the melting point of pure minerals and mixtures of minerals. Specific examples of the various pegmatite types were shown and at the same time attention was called to the peculiar presence or absence of certain minerals or groups of minerals in closely related types. A short discussion followed. Several junior members displayed some very attractive quartz crystals recently found near Bridgeport, Pa., and Mr. Williams showed beryl of unusual quality from Leiperville. Attendance 62.

LESTER W. STROCK, *Secretary*

BOOK REVIEW

SEDIMENTARY PETROGRAPHY. HENRY B. MILNER. Second revised and complete edition. XXI+514 pages with 41 plates. Thomas Murby & Co., London; D. Van Nostrand Co., New York, 1929. Price \$8.50.

Mineralogists and petrologists will welcome the appearance of the second edition of this excellent work on sedimentary petrography. No longer will it be necessary for the student to make time consuming shifts from the "Introduction" (published in 1922) to the "Supplement" (published in 1926) and *vice versa* in order to obtain all the recorded information. However, the present volume is not a mere blending into one book of the material previously disseminated through two smaller texts. Naturally most of the descriptions and cuts of the earlier works have been embodied in the second edition after careful revision. At the same time entirely new chapters have been added so that in its present form the book can serve as a comprehensive treatise on the petrology of both the consolidated as well as the unconsolidated sediments. In fact one chapter of approximately 100 pages is devoted exclusively to a systematic description of *thin sections* of sedimentary rocks.

The book in its present form consists of eleven chapters with three appendices. While it is difficult to give an adequate review in the space allotted, some idea of the wide scope of the work may be gained from the following chapter headings: (1) Introduction to the study of sedimentary rocks; (2) Surface and subsurface samples, storage and records; (3) Laboratory technique; (4) Microscopical examination of

sediments; (5) Quantitative data; (6) Diagnostic properties of sedimentary rock minerals; (7) The petrography of consolidated sediments; (8) The principles and practice of differentiation and correlation of sediments by petrographic methods; (9) Some examples of differentiation and correlation of sediments by petrographic methods; (10) The bearing of sedimentary petrography on palaeogeographical problems; and (11) The application of sedimentary petrography to the study of soils and related superficial deposits.

In this edition 72 minerals are fully described and of this number 55 are represented by figures. Forty-one full page glazed inserts carrying photomicrographs of thin sections, individual minerals and mineral assemblages contribute much to the value of the text for instructional purposes. The usefulness of the book can be still further extended through the purchase from the publishing house of complete sets of microscope slides illustrating the various phases of sedimentary petrology as described in the text.

The book is strongly recommended to every serious student of sedimentary rocks irrespective of his special line of interest, although the price of \$8.50 seems excessive if the same book can be purchased for twenty-one shillings in England.

W. F. H.

