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## FAMOUS MINERAL LOCALITIES: BERYL MOUNTAIN, ACWORTH, N. H.

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Acworth, N. H., is justly famed for the enormous beryl crystals found on Beryl Mt., in the southern part of the town. A crystal from this locality in the National Museum at Washington is nearly four feet long and eighteen inches in diameter. As early as 1840 these beryls were widely known; Dr. Jackson, in his geological report of New Hampshire, stated that at the Imperial Museum in Vienna he was shown a beryl eight inches in diameter, which had been found on Beryl Mt., and was highly prized. However, while these beryls possess magnitude, they are lacking in beauty, for they are generally opaque, and have indistinct faces.

The nearest railroad station is Bellows Falls, Vt., on the main line up the Connecticut River valley between New York and Montreal. Several express trains from New York, a seven hours journey distant, pass thru daily. From Bellows Falls to South Acworth P. O. is nine miles, and Beryl Mt. is one mile south of South Acworth. A trail leads from the highway at the base of Beryl Mt. up to the pit where the beryls are found, which lies near the summit.

The beryls occur in a pegmatite vein, which here is composed almost entirely of quartz, with the beryl as an accessory mineral; feldspar occurring in small quantities. The quartz is of a snow-white color tinged with delicate pink or purple; it has been used locally for tomb-stones, to supply which the pit was first opened.

A semi-circular excavation about thirty feet across has been blasted away from the rock, and the very steep approach has been strewn with fragments of quartz and beryl, which have accumulated to a depth of several feet, near the pit.

Imbedded in the quartz there are exposed enormous beryls, some of them almost a yard in diameter, and many smaller ones. It is difficult to dig these out, as they are very firmly imbedded; and better results may be obtained by digging in the talus below the pit. The beryl is generally of apple-green color, opaque, and poorly crystallized. The smaller crystals occasionally exhibit distinct faces, the forms  $m$  (10 $\bar{1}$ 0) and  $c$  (0001) being practically the only ones to be found.

Much less common are rather showy semi-translucent, brownish yellow crystals; bluish green ones are not uncommon. Faulted crystals are not unusual, and some have been broken and recemented many times in an inch.

It is rather disappointing to be unable to carry off some of the larger crystals, but even to see them *in situ* is worth the trip. Then too, a beautiful view may be obtained of the New Hampshire and Vermont hills from the summit of the mountain.

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#### NOTES AND NEWS

On October 1, 1918, Col. Joseph Willcox, the last of the early Pennsylvania mineralogists, passed away at the age of 89. A native of Delaware County, he became closely associated with Genth, Rand, Jefferis, and others in mineralogical exploration in the southeastern part of the state; and he later collected extensively both minerals and shells in Florida, North Carolina, New York, and Canada, the collections of the Wagner Free Institute of Science and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia being rich in material obtained by him. He was one of the commissioners of the Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, curator of the Isaac Lea Collection of Tertiary Mollusca in the Academy of Natural Sciences; a trustee and secretary of the board of the Wagner Free Institute of Science; and an honorary member of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society.

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Dr. Arthur L. Day, director of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, has resigned to take up research at the Corning Glass Works, Corning, New York. Dr. Olaf Andersen, petrologist at the same institution, has accepted a position as director of an experimental silicate laboratory to be maintained by the Norwegian government at Kristiania.

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In a recent review in *Science* of a book on South America, the following bits of mineralogical misinformation are quoted: In the nitrate fields of Chile, "the surface of the country is all upheaved"—this being based on a photo of a quarry dump! In Brazil, "rich beds of . . . platinum are known to exist"—we wish platinum did occur in beds!! And finally, "pearls . . . are *mined* in various parts of the country"—further comment superfluous!!!