

NOTES AND NEWS

There are several minerals, valuable in industry because of peculiar physical properties, the supply of which has been cut off by the war. Transparent fluorite, used in lenses, was formerly all obtained from Germany, but it is reported that deposits have now been found in Illinois of sufficient size and quality to supply our needs. Calcite of Iceland-spar quality has, however, disappeared from the market. Can not some American mineralogist discover a workable deposit? Perhaps our readers can suggest other instances.

PRISMATIC CLEAVAGE IN BERYL. ALFRED C. LANE, *Tufts College*.—The mineralogies do not generally refer to a prismatic cleavage for beryl, altho Hintze states that "vertical parting is occasionally produced, probably more by a shell-like structure than by real cleavage." A large piece of beryl from Grafton, New Hampshire, in our collection was recently discovered to exhibit such distinct cleavage as to lead to misidentifications by some of our best students. This led to the examination of other specimens, in the Tufts, Harvard, and Tech. collections, and Professors Palache, Warren, and the writer all agree in finding a distinct cleavage parallel to the prism, (1010). The cleavage is about as good as that of nephelite. It is suggested that others look the matter up, and if this proves to be a general relation that writers of mineralogies modify their descriptions of beryl accordingly.

SOME MINERALS FROM SYLMAR, PENNSYLVANIA. EDGAR T. WHERRY, *Washington, D. C.*—In the "spar" quarries two miles northwest of Sylmar, West Nottingham Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, minerals other than massive feldspar and quartz are very rarely found. Joint planes are sometimes dotted with curious rosettes of secondary albite which suggest insects crawling over the rock, but the usual pegmatite minerals are conspicuously absent. About five years ago the writer visited that region, and noticed a tiny patch of pink, greenish, and yellowish materials in a fragment of white massive albite. Subsequent examination by the immersion method under the microscope has shown these to possess the optical properties of zoisite, apatite, and serpentine respectively. The first two of these are not uncommon in pegmatites, and the third evidently represents a bit of the country rock which has been picked up by the magma. The association is however so peculiar as to make the occurrence seem worth a brief note, even tho the whole specimen is but a centimeter in diameter.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

THE PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

WAGNER FREE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, MARCH 14, 1918

A stated meeting of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date with the President, Dr. Leffmann, in the chair. Fifteen members and three visitors were present.

Mr. Louis H. Koch presented a paper on Abbe Haüy's position in crystallography, illustrated by Dr. H. Burgin with a series of models.

Mr. Harold Evans was elected an active member. Mr. Charles W. Hoadley was proposed by Mr. Gordon for active membership.

SAMUEL G. GORDON, *Secretary*

We regret to announce the death on March 19, 1918, of one of our most valued and active members, Mr. George W. Geist, of Frankford, Philadelphia, Pa.