

AN OCCURRENCE OF WAPPLERITE IN NEVADA

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A single boulder recently collected from the dump of the White Caps mine, near Manhattan, Nevada, shows very thin white seams of a snow-white mineral on both realgar and orpiment in a gray limestone. The white mineral exhibits no crystalline structure macroscopically and was suspected of being some hydrous calcium arsenate, other than the fibrous pharmacolite frequently encountered in the White Caps ore.

Microchemical tests showed the mineral to be essentially a calcium arsenate with apparently no other elements present.

Under the microscope a finely crystalline structure could be observed. Very rarely straight line edges were found on some fragments and these showed an inclined extinction with a fairly large angle. By immersion in oils the mean refractive index was determined to be about 1.55. In Larsen and Berman's Tables (*U. S. Geol. Sur., Bull.* 848) the optical data for wapplerite is incomplete but the mineral is listed with a mean index near 1.55. Since no other simple calcium arsenate has similar refractive indices it seems likely that the mineral here described should be classified as wapplerite.

Doubtless the calcium arsenate in this occurrence is derived from the alteration of calcite and arsenic sulfides. There is some suggestion that the calcium arsenate as first formed may have been entirely pharmacolite, as occasionally a crudely fibrous appearance is observed in the wapplerite. Rare minute fibers were observed on the specimens derived from the boulder and while they could not be readily isolated for optical tests, they are assumed to be probably pharmacolite. Since wapplerite could be formed from pharmacolite by a simple process of hydration, its replacement of that mineral in this occurrence is not unlikely. Haidingerite might be expected as an intermediate stage but its presence was not noted on these specimens.

THE BRANCHVILLE, CONNECTICUT, PEGMATITE: A CORRECTION
IN TERMINOLOGYVINCENT E. SHAININ, *U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

In a paper by the writer on the pegmatite at Branchville, Connecticut (*Am. Mineral.*, 31, nos. 7 and 8, 329-345, 1946) there are a few inconsistencies in the terminology of structural units in the pegmatite. After the paper was written, the terminology employed by the United States

Geological Survey was revised and the manuscript was changed accordingly. A few of the changes needed, however, were not made.

There is a distinction between the terms "unit" and "zone" that is not entirely clear in the paper as it appeared. A unit is any part of a pegmatite that is distinct from other parts owing to different texture or mineralogy, or both. Zones are a special kind of unit; they are successive concentric shells with boundaries roughly parallel to the walls of the pegmatite. Furthermore, they appear to be primary; i.e., not formed by replacement of pre-existing units of the pegmatite. Under this classification only the following units in the Branchville pegmatite are zones: border zone, muscovite-quartz zone, microcline-perthite zone, and quartz core. The cleavelandite-quartz, cleavelandite, and cleavelandite-spodumene bodies are units of replacement origin, and therefore should not have been labelled "zones" in the illustrations of the paper.

Corrections that should be made in the text are:

Page 336, line 3: "both zones" should read "both units."

Page 336, line 7: "in the zone" should read "in the unit."

Page 337, line 15: "cleavelandite-quartz zone" should read "cleavelandite-quartz unit."

A NEW OCCURRENCE OF ADAMITE

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During a recent visit to the Ojuella Mine, Mapimi, Durango, Mexico,—a mine famous for the extent of its workings and the uniqueness of its mineralogy—a small pocket of *adamite* was encountered, notable both because it has not previously been described from this locality and for the splendor of its crystallization.

The adamite occurs in radiating form, on a matrix of limonite and calcite, as shiny transparent, greenish-yellow crystals up to 5/16" in length. Elongation parallel to the *b* axis is pronounced and only two crystal forms are prominent: a long macrodome {201}, truncated by a prism {310}.

An article is now in preparation dealing in greater detail with recent observations at this locality.

The Department of Conservation, State of New Jersey, has recently issued Bulletin 59, Geologic Series, Bibliography and Index of the Geology of New Jersey. In this bibliography, prepared by Miss Agnes Grametbauer, are listed books, bulletins, journals, articles, papers and reports on the geology of New Jersey that have appeared from 1753 to July 1, 1945.