NEW MINERAL NAMES

Vernadite


The name vernadite is given, in honor of V. I. Vernadsky, to a mineral formed in the early stages of oxidation of manganese silicates and carbonates. The composition is stated to be MnO₂·H₂O, plus a varying amount of water. The mineral is widespread in occurrence and was previously taken to be manganite. It is black when massive, compact; reddish to chocolate brown when finely dispersed. Streak is chocolate brown.

DISCUSSION. So vague a description scarcely warrants a new name.

M. FLEISCHER

Christensenite


Tridymite from a lava on Deception Island has n (Na) α=1.479, β=1.480, γ=1.483, each about 0.01 higher than the corresponding n of pure tridymite. Spectrographic study showed the presence of Na, Al and traces of Fe and Ca. Quantitative photometric comparison with mixtures of quartz and nepheline showed that this tridymite contained 5.2% nepheline. Whereas normal tridymite has inversions at 117° and 163°, christensenite has a single inversion at 130° to 140°, the temperature varying somewhat for different crystals. It is probable that other tridymites from lavas will be found to belong to this series.

The name is for Consul Lars Christensen, who supported the expeditions financially.

M. F.

Unnamed


This is a preliminary description of a mineral associated with tvevorite (NiFe₂O₄). It may be the nickel analogue of talc.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: Analysis by H. J. Weall gave SiO₂ 47.1, Al₂O₃, Cr₂O₃, TiO₂ none, Fe₂O₃ 6.65, FeO 1.15, NiO 30.6, CoO 3.5, MgO 9.45, alkalies none, H₂O = 0.2, H₂O₁ + 1.45; sum 100.1%. This corresponds, after deduction of 5% trevorite, to 6NiO · 3MgO · 10SiO₂ · H₂O or, as suggested in a note by J. E. de Villiers, to (Ni,Mg,Fe,Co)₄Si₆O₁₄(OH)₄. Talc is Mg₄Si₆O₁₄(OH)₄.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES: Color is dark green in massive aggregates, apple-green in flakes. Streak, pale greenish white. Luster pearly in flakes, greasy to waxy in massive aggregates. H = 2-2½. G = 3.037. Cleavage micaceous, tough and flexible (like chlorites). Attracted in a strong field of an electromagnet, but not in a weak field.


M. F.
NEW DATA

Ahlfeldite


Ahlfeldite was described in 1935 as an alteration product of penroseite (blockite) and was thought to be a nickel selenate. In 1937 it was stated to be identical with the cobalt selenate cobaltomenite. Re-examination of ahlfeldite shows it to consist of greenish crystals, probably triclinic, that contained much nickel and selenium, and little or no cobalt. The red color previously ascribed to the mineral is confined to a thin outer crust and may be due to native selenium. Ahlfeldite is therefore a valid species.

M.F.

At the December meeting of the New York Mineralogical Club held December 19, 1945 new membership and excursion committees were appointed and the Club voted to contribute to the Harry Berman Memorial Laboratory Fund. Mr. Clyde Schumacher of the Johns-Manville Co. spoke on the general subject "Asbestos."

Dr. George T. Faust, associate mineralogist of the U. S. Geological Survey has been appointed professor of mineralogy at Indiana University, and Dr. Eugene Callaghan, commodity geologist of the Survey, has been appointed professor of economic geology.