

December 18, 1946

The principal speaker of the evening was Charles R. Toothaker, who spoke on "Recent Developments in Economic Mineralogy." Mr. Toothaker was associated with A. E. Foote, mineral dealer of Philadelphia, where he handled many specimens of all kinds. Mineralogists were familiar with the associations and the localities of minerals containing elements which at that time were considered rare and of no economic importance. However as uses for these elements were discovered there was a demand for them in quantity and manufacturers had to rely on mineralogists either to supply them from known localities or to find new occurrences.

January 15, 1947

The speaker of the evening was Dr. Edgar T. Wherry who spoke on "Searching for Radioactive Minerals in Pennsylvania." He found that there were quite a few radioactive minerals in Pennsylvania, mostly in southeastern Pennsylvania, but none in large amounts. Some of these minerals are autunite, torbernite, euxenite, allanite and cyrtolite.

However an important deposit of carnotite was found at Mauch Chunk where the mineral is scattered through a coarse sandstone. It is believed that plants were responsible for the concentration of the elements of this mineral which accumulated in the rock.

PURFIELD KENT, *Secretary*

## BOOK REVIEW

IDENTIFICATION AND QUALITATIVE CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF MINERALS  
by ORSINO C. SMITH. D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., ix+351 pages (1946). Price \$6.50.

In 1940 the author published a handbook of minerals under the title "Mineral Identification Simplified." This earlier text of 271 pages listed over 2000 minerals and consisted essentially of tables based largely on the two important physical properties of specific gravity and hardness (reviewed in *Am. Mineral.*, **25**, p. 767).

The present enlarged text of 351 pages, while based on the same underlying principles as the earlier work, has a number of innovations which are aimed to assist the student in the identification of minerals. In this expanded edition, under a new title, greater stress is placed on wet qualitative tests of the elements, including many of the rare earths, to supplement the strictly blowpipe reactions and the physical properties.

It seems that an unnecessarily large amount of space (about 20 pages) has however been devoted to detailed instructions for constructing "home made" balances for specific gravity determinations and a chemical "portable laboratory" for field work.

Perhaps the most unique feature of the book is the very large number (20 pages) of colored illustrations which attempt to depict the natural color of minerals, the reactions on charcoal, plaster tablet, bead tests and the appearance of a few minerals when exposed to ultra violet light. Some of these colored plates are without question very good and should prove extremely helpful; however many are of questionable merit.

As the book covers a wide field of mineralogic information including both the chemical and physical properties it should prove a very handy reference manual for the mineralogist, geologist and chemist.

W.F.H.