

INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS
XVIII SESSION, LONDON, 1948

The XVIII Session of the International Geological Congress, originally planned for 1940 and postponed on the outbreak of war, is to be held in Great Britain in 1948, on the invitation of the Geological Society of London.

A Third Circular containing preliminary arrangements for the Session has been issued. Sessional Meetings will take place in London from August 25 to September 1, 1948, and the following subjects have been provisionally listed for discussion:

1. Problems of Geochemistry.
2. Metasomatic Processes in Metamorphism.
3. Rhythm in Sedimentation.
4. The Geological Results of Applied Geophysics.
5. The Geology of Iron-Ore Deposits.
6. The Geology of Petroleum.
7. The Geology, Paragenesis and Reserves of the Ores of Lead and Zinc.
8. The Geology of Sea and Ocean Floors.
9. The Pliocene-Pleistocene Boundary.
10. Faunal and Floral Facies and Zonal Correlation.
11. The Correlation of Continental Vertebrate-bearing Rocks.
12. Earth Movements and Organic Evolution.

The Circular gives details of geological excursions covering most of the British Isles which are planned to take place between August 7 and September 18, 1948, as part of the Congress program. They include 16 long excursions (7-16 days) before the meetings in London, and 16 of similar length after the meetings. There will also be daily excursions, centered on London, between August 22 and September 3.

The General Organizing Committee is anxious that the plans for the Session, which will be the first major international assembly of geologists for 11 years, shall be as widely known as possible. About 1500 geologists, including some 800 from countries overseas, would have attended in 1940 if the arrangements for that year had not been disrupted by war; it is hoped that the attendance in 1948 will be of the same order, and that it will include representatives of universities, geological surveys, geological and mining societies, and other interested institutions from most countries of the world.

Sir Thomas Holland, K.C.S.I., F.R.S., is President of the General Organizing Committee and President-Designate of the Congress. The General Secretaries are Mr. A. J. Butler and Dr. L. Hawkes, and the Treasurer is Mr. F. N. Ashcroft. All communications should be addressed to the General Secretaries, XVIII Session International Geological Congress, Geological Survey and Museum, Exhibition Road, London, S.W. 7.

The international journal *Spectrochimica Acta* was first published by Julius Springer in Berlin in 1939. Two completed volumes (15 numbers) were issued when publication was interrupted by the war.

It has been decided to re-establish this journal for spectroscopists and spectrochemists. It will be published in the Vatican under the editorship of Dr. Alois Gatterer, assisted by the following who will serve as associate editors:

Dr. R. Breckport of Belgium
Dr. H. Kaiser of Germany

Dr. E. Van Someren of England
Dr. Lester W. Strock of the United States

It is expected that the first number of the revived journal (no. 1 of vol. 3) will be ready for the press by August 1, and that from 6 to 8 numbers will appear annually thereafter.

Papers in English from America should be submitted to Dr. Lester W. Strock, 21 Madison Ave., Saratoga Springs, New York. Other editors will take care of papers in other languages from other countries. The official languages of *Spectrochimica Acta* are English, French and German, although papers will also be accepted in Italian and Spanish.

NEW YORK MINERALOGICAL CLUB, INC.

American Museum of Natural History

Abstracts of Minutes of meeting for March 19, 1947

The speaker of the evening was Mr. A. N. Holden who spoke on "Growing Crystals from Solution." The crystals grown were ammonium dihydrogen phosphate, a piezoelectric material, which is used by the Bell Telephone Co. for voice frequency filters. These filters will pass certain frequencies and cut out others thereby enabling several messages to be sent over the same wire, at the same time, at different frequencies without interference. The material selected had to have the necessary piezoelectric property and had to be suitable for growing large crystals rapidly in the laboratory.

If a seed crystal is suspended in a solution, growth does not take place uniformly over the entire surface but a current is set up which moves up around the crystal and the bottom of the crystal grows faster than the top, giving a stepped back effect. This can be eliminated by stirring the solution but this develops turbulence so it must be stirred very slowly.

The effect of even very small amounts of impurities such as chromium and tin have a marked and harmful effect on the crystals.

At the Bell Laboratories the crystals are grown by fixing a seed plate on an arm which rotates slowly in a solution of uniform temperature and then reversing the direction of rotation periodically so that growth is uniform. Material is added to the seed plate as pyramids at the four corners of each side of the plate and these pyramids get larger until they grow together forming one pyramid. In the solution used these crystals grow only on the pyramids so that on continued growth the crystals become elongated in the direction of the pyramids while the prism does not get any thicker.

The talk was illustrated with lantern slides and specimens.

PARFIELD KENT, *Secretary*

Dr. George Tunell of the Geophysical Laboratory, Washington, D. C., has accepted the appointment of Associate Professor of Mineralogy at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Dr. E. Wm. Heinrich of the Department of Geology, Montana School of Mines, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Mineralogy at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Gordon A. Macdonald, District Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey, has been granted a leave from the Survey and can be addressed at Dept. of Geology, University of Southern California, University Park, Los Angeles 7, California.

William H. Broadwell, well known mineral collector in the New Jersey-New York area and one of the founders of the Newark Mineralogical Society, died on April 2 at the age of 71 years.