

USE OF AEROSOL IN GRAIN SORTING

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It is common practice for mineralogists to sort grains by using a dissecting needle moistened with saliva or some oily substance to which grains will adhere. In the U. S. Geological Survey laboratories, where samples for x -ray identification are frequently purified by grain-sorting, a wetting agent such as "Laboratory Aerosol" manufactured by Eimer & Amend Company of New York, was found to be an excellent needle moistener. Aerosol, because of its low surface tension, forms a thin, uniform layer over the tip of the needle, and even the tiniest grains can be picked up and easily removed from the needle. Saliva tends to "ball up" some distance back from the point and hence is ineffective. It was found convenient to use a small shallow container (about 2 cm. in diameter) such as a biological-specimen jar with an inside ground-glass stopper or an outside ground-glass cover, in the bottom of which is placed a wad of cotton saturated with aerosol. The tip of the dissecting needle is coated with aerosol simply by touching it lightly to the aerosol-saturated cotton. In x -ray examination by the powder method, the aerosol used does not contribute to the pattern, even when the grains are completely saturated or coated with aerosol.

X-RAY DEFFRACTION CARDS ON CLAY MATERIALS

Extracted from Preliminary Report No. 7 of the API Research Project 49, these cards present x -ray diffraction data on 19 clay materials from different localities. On 3 by 5 inch cards in the format of the x -ray diffraction data card file published by the American Society for Testing Materials for the Joint Committee on Chemical Analysis by x -ray Diffraction Methods. Cards cover complete patterns given in "d" values for lines, including relative intensities, as well as single crystal data where available. Materials covered include the following:

<i>Clay</i>	<i>Locality</i>
Attapulgit	Attapulgis, Georgia
Dickite (96.29%)	St. George, Utah
Dickite (94.43%)	San Juanito, Mexico
Halloysite (93.9%)	Eureka, Utah
Halloysite (91.06%)	Bedford, Indiana
Kaolinite (Unknown Purity)	Macon, Georgia
Kaolinite (97.44%)	Lewistown, Montana
Kaolinite (97.19%)	Murfreesboro, Arkansas
Kaolinite (95.30%)	Mesa Alta, N. Mexico
Kaolinite (95.18%)	Bath, S. Carolina
Montmorillonite	Polkville, Mississippi
Montmorillonite	Chambers, Arizona
Montmorillonite	Santa Rita, N. Mexico
Montmorillonite	Lorena, Mississippi
Nacrite (Unknown Purity)	Augustusburg, Saxony
Nontronite	Garfield, Washington
Nontronite	Manito, Washington
Pyrophyllite	Robbins, N. Carolina
Saponite	Hector, California

Total of 24 cards because of necessity in some cases for two cards to cover complete diffraction pattern. Available from American Society for Testing Materials, 1916 Race Street, Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania, at \$2.00 per set of 24 cards.

The Cordilleran Section of the Geological Society of America will hold its forty-eighth annual meeting, the 11th and 12th of April, 1952, at Tucson, Arizona. A mineralogical session will be sponsored by the Mineralogical Society of America.

Members and fellows are requested to submit at their earliest convenience the titles and abstracts of papers they hope to present at this session. Abstracts should be submitted in duplicate and must not exceed 250 words. Titles and abstracts must be in the hands of Dr. V. L. Vanderhoof not later than February 1, 1952. Abstract blanks may be secured from the various geology departments or from the Secretary of the Section, Professor V. L. Vanderhoof, School of Mineral Sciences, Stanford University, Stanford, California.

At the recent meeting of the International Union of Chemistry in New York and Washington, the Commission on Geochemical Localization of the Elements, organized by the Section of Inorganic Chemistry, held its first meetings. It was agreed that one of the needs of the field that could be met by the Commission was to act as a central source of information as to what research in geochemistry was being undertaken and where. It is therefore requested that persons and organizations that now have under way or that expect in the near future to undertake research projects or bibliographic projects in the field of geochemistry to inform the Commission of these projects and their scope. Those in the Western Hemisphere should write to Dr. Michael Fleischer, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington 25, D. C.; those elsewhere should write to Professor T. F. W. Barth, Geological Museum, Oslo 45, Norway.

The 1952 Spring Meeting of the Society for Experimental Stress Analysis will be held at the Hotel Lincoln, Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 14, 15, and 16.
