normally from the side of a little anvil which is to be held in a vise. In the free end of the lever over the anvil a cold chisel is clamped. The specimen is located on the anvil under the chisel and held with the left hand while the chisel is struck with a hammer held in the right hand. Thus only the waste piece can fall when detached.

## BOOK REVIEW

HANDBOOK OF MINERALOGY, BLOWPIPE ANALYSIS AND GEOMETRICAL CRYSTALLOGRAPHY. G. MONTAGUE BUTLER, E. M. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. *New York*, 1918. 667 pp., 196 figs., 5 tables.

This volume is the combined edition of Professor Butler's three books, bound in the order of their appearance, altho this causes the descriptive part to appear before the parts on blowpipe analysis and crystallography,—a reversal of the usual arrangement. Each part, incidentally, is separately paged, contains its own preface, table of contents and index. Designed for field use, the book is small octavo in size, with a flexible cover, and can be easily carried in the pocket.

In the first part 226 minerals are described in Dana's order. Only the essential characters are given, the distinctive or diagnostic ones being emphasized with bold-faced type. The commercially important minerals are afterwards listed, also the retail prices of gems, and the value of metals and minerals; this part concludes with a glossary and 5 tables giving the properties of the minerals described.

The second part, on blowpipe analysis has been designed for the use of students and prospectors with the idea of making oral instruction unnecessary, and is characterized by simplicity and conciseness. The elementary principles of chemistry are given, however, after the sections on laboratory work.

The last part, Geometrical Crystallography, has been written as an aid in the sight determination of minerals, hence only the essential features of the subject are presented,—the recognition of crystal forms. S. G. G.

## NOTES AND NEWS

The British Educational Mission which has been touring the United States during the past few months, included two mineralogists, Sir Henry A. Miers, author of a text-book of Mineralogy and of numerous researches on crystallization phenomena, and Professor John Joly, well known for his geochemical researches, and for recent studies on the significance of pleochroic haloes.

We learn from *Science* that during last summer the Gail Borden collection of minerals, belonging to Occidental College, Los Angeles, has been placed in a favorable position for examination. This collection contains some of the finest mineral specimens on exhibition in southern California, and facilities for their study will be extended to visiting mineralogists.

Dr. Norman L. Bowen has resigned from the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution to accept the Professorship of Mineralogy in Queens University, Kingston, Canada.

At the meeting of the Geological Society of America in Baltimore, December 27–28, 1918, the question of the formation of a Mineralogical Society of America was informally discussed by mineralogists present. A full report of the conclusions reached will be published later. Several papers of mineralogic interest were presented at the meeting.

All measurements given in this magazine will hereafter be stated in metric units; authors of papers are requested to observe this, altho the equivalents in other units may be added in parentheses if desired.

---

## PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

### PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Wagner Free Institute of Science, December 12, 1918

A stated meeting of The Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date, with the president, Dr. Leffmann in the chair. Nineteen members and visitors were present.

Mr. Samuel G. Gordon presented a communication on "*The History of Mineralogy in Pennsylvania.*" The American Philosophical Society, founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743 devoted some attention to mineralogy, but the first mineralogical society was initiated as the "Chemical Society of Philadelphia" (1792–1809). Its chief purpose was to acquire information relative to the minerals of the United States. A standing committee of five was charged with the duty of analyzing (without charge) minerals submitted to it.[1]

The earliest mineralogists were Adam Seybert (1773–1825), Thomas P. Smith (died 1802), Silvanius Godon (died 1812?), James Woodhouse (1772–1809), Gerard Troost (1776–1850), Lardner Vanuxem (1792–1848), Isaac Lea (1792–1886), William Keating (1799–1848), and Thomas Nuttall (1786–1859). Seybert was the first scientifically trained mineralogist, and Troost, who studied under Abbé Haüy, the first crystallographer in America. His early contributions to this subject have been entirely overlooked by some writers on the history of mineralogic science in America. Seybert's cabinet was the second brought to America (1795–1800), and is kept intact in the original condition, arranged according to Cleaveland's Mineralogy (1816). It is probably the oldest American collection of minerals extant.[2]

The Academy of Natural Sciences was instituted in 1812, with Troost as the first president. It contains the cabinets of Adam Seybert (purchased in 1812,—its first mineral collection); Silvanius Godon (1814), Thomas M'Euen

[1] This was followed in 1798 by the American Mineralogical Society, founded in New York by Samuel Latham Mitchill.

[2] This collection was preceded by a cabinet brought from Europe in 1794 by David Hosack, exhibited in New York, and presented to Princeton University in 1821; but the identity of this cabinet has been lost.