

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

NEW YORK MINERALOGICAL CLUB

Regular monthly meeting of Wednesday, October 8, 1919. The regular monthly meeting of the New York Mineralogical Club was held in the American Museum of Natural History on October, 8th, with the President, Dr. Kunz, presiding. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee reported favorably on the name of Mr. Ernest Weidhaus, presented at the May meeting, and the Recording Secretary was instructed to cast a ballot for Mr. Weidhaus, who was declared duly elected. The name of Mr. Alexander McL. Nicolson was proposed for election as a member of the Club by Mr. Wintringham and seconded by Mr. Ashby. On a motion by the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, the Recording Secretary was instructed to cast a ballot for Mr. Nicolson, who was forthwith declared elected.

A discussion of a field excursion on Columbus Day was then taken up and on a proposal by Capt. Miller, Franklin Furnace was suggested as an objective. Capt. Miller offered to investigate the possibility of the Franklin Furnace locality and report to the Recording Secretary in time to issue notices. This was approved.

Mr. Ashby proposed, on behalf of the Committee on Publication, the reprinting of Mr. Manchester's paper on the Minerals of the Bergen Archways, which had been published in the September number of the AMERICAN MINERALOGIST, as a Bulletin of the Club.

The Chair then introduced Dr. Edgar T. Wherry, of the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry, who read a paper on "Practical Applications of Crystallography."

Dr. Wherry discussed the microscopic features of the crystals of the seven systems [considering the rhombohedral division of the hexagonal system as a distinct system], and illustrated by lantern slides from photomicrographs the characteristic outlines of their crystals, as a means of distinguishing them. By the same method he explained the process of determining refractive index by the immersion method. By using colored lantern slides he demonstrated the phenomena shown by crystals between crossed nicols, and explained their determinative value. The last part of the address was devoted to citing the many and important applications of optical methods to the identification of crystalline chemical compounds, as used in the laboratories of the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry.

At the close of the address a vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Wherry for his most interesting and valuable paper. The meeting was adjourned at 9.45 P. M.

HERBERT P. WHITLOCK, *Secretary.*

THE PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Wagner Free Institute of Science, October 9, 1919

The Twenty-seventh annual meeting of The Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date with the president, Dr. Henry Leffmann, in the chair. Thirty-five members and visitors were present.

The resignation of Mr. L. J. Herwegh was read and accepted.

The following officers were elected for 1919-1920: President, Dr. Herman Burgin; Vice-president, Mr. Harry W. Trudell; Treasurer, Mr. Harry A. Warford; Secretary, Mr. Samuel G. Gordon.

Dr. Leffmann addressed the society on "The Story of Helium," tracing the history of the element from its spectroscopic discovery in the sun, its identification in uraninite and in the atmosphere, rocks and surface waters, and its practical uses in modern warfare.

Mr. Gordon reported the results of the Society's trip to Pusey's quarry and the corundum mines near Unionville. The former quarry has long been abandoned and nothing is obtainable. Corundum, margarite, tourmaline, and albite are obtainable on the dumps of the corundum mines at Unionville. Those that took the trip were Messrs. Hoadley, Ford, Frankensfield and Gordon. Mr. Gordon also reported a second visit to the No. 1 Tunnel at Nesquehoning

on October 8. The few remaining lansfordite stalactite-crystals were gathered, brought down in mine water, and then transferred to kerosene. Dr. Wherry called attention to the peculiar alteration of lansfordite to nesquehonite which involved an increase in CO_2 , and a decrease in water.

Dr. Herman Burgin then took the chair, and briefly addressed the society, after which it adjourned.

SAMUEL G. GORDON, *Secretary.*

NEWARK MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Newark, N. J.

The annual meeting of the Newark Mineralogical Society was held November 2, 1919, at the Newark Technical School.

Specimens of minerals containing tungsten and molybdenum were exhibited by the members, the display being a fine one.

A paper was read by Mr. Paul Walther on a trip thru the Cumberland (England) district, and the minerals to be found there.

The following officers were elected for the year 1919-1920:

President, Charles A. Colton
 Vice-President, John Holzman
 Treasurer, Herman M. Lehman
 Secretary, William H. Broadwell.

NEW MINERALS

Oruetite

[S. Piña de Rubies:] La "oruetite" nuovo solfotellururo di bismuto. (Oruetite, a new bismuth sulfo-telluride). [*Anales. soc. españ. fis. quim.*, 17, 83-7, 1919]; *Rass. min.*, 49 (5), 93-94, 1919. [Only Italian translation seen.]

NAME: After Domingo de Orueta, who discovered it.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Closely resembling tetradymite; luster: brilliant metallic; color: steel gray; cleavage: perfect; structure lamellar; laminae flexible; hardness 1.5; density 7.6; melts at about 500° , with loss of sulfur.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Qualitatively like tetradymite, joseite, etc. Composition: Bi 86.78, Te 6.35, S 6.84, sum 99.97 per cent., corresponding closely to the formula Bi_5TeS_4 . Regarded as an isomorphous or eutectic mixture of Bi_2Te_3 , Bi_2S_3 and Bi. [Homogeneity not, however, satisfactorily established.] Related to gruenlingite, and in fact one occurrence of this at Cumberland, England, had the same composition.

OCCURRENCE

Occurs in dolomite associated with native bismuth, bismuthinite, arsenopyrite, pyrite, scheelite and limonite, at Serrania de Ronda. E. T. W.

NOTES AND NEWS

Dr. Arthur F. Buddington, of Brown University, has joined the staff of the Geophysical Laboratory.

The Rumford Committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences has voted an appropriation of \$300 to Professor Frances G. Wick, of Vassar College, for researches on the phosphorescence of the minerals hexagonite (manganiferous tremolite) and fluorite, at ordinary and low temperatures.

The deaths of the following mineralogists are announced:

Dr. Johannes Uhlig, of the University of Bonn, died of inflammation of the lungs while serving as field geologist with the German army in Ukrainia, Dec. 3, 1917. An account of his life appears in *Centr. Min. Geol.* 1919, 63-64.

Professor Hendrik Enno Boeke, of the University of Frankfurt, died on December 6, 1918, from illness contracted in the war. His life and work are feelingly described by Prof. Rinne in *Centr. Min. Geol.*, 1919, 90-96.