

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

THE NEW YORK MINERALOGICAL CLUB

SEASON OF 1918-1919

The meetings since the opening of the season of 1918-1919, all of which have been held (on postponed dates) at the American Museum of Natural History in New York with the President, Dr. George F. Kunz, usually in the Chair, were markedly interesting events.

The meeting of October 14 was devoted to a consideration of kyanite, staurolite and associated minerals. Mr. G. S. Stanton and Mr. A. C. Hawkins exhibited an assortment of specimens of the twinned crystals of staurolite from Patrick Co., Va., sold in curio shops in Washington, D. C., as souvenirs, under the name of Fairy Crosses. The Secretary referred to the remarkable circumstance that andalusite, kyanite, and sillimanite are trimorphous forms of the same chemical compound, and presented various specimens of them in illustration of his remarks.

Herbert P. Whitlock explained the twin crystals of staurolite and illustrated his remarks with specimens from the Museum collection. The subject was then discussed by several of the members. Mr. Whitlock also exhibited an opal, apparently asteriated, by means of a small incandescent lamp and a paper box designed for the purpose. Mr. James G. Manchester then read a paper on star quartz, and described the special features of the rose variety from Bedford, N. Y.

The Secretary referred to Dr. D. S. Martin as convalescent from an operation for his sight and Dr. Kunz to the loss by death of Mr. Wm. E. Hidden and Mr. George O. Simmons. Appropriate resolutions were adopted by the Club in each case.

At the November meeting, postponed to the 20th of the month, Mr. Herbert P. Whitlock presented the announced paper on "The Pyramidal Habit of Calcite and its Relation to a Phase of Calcite Genesis." After a brief general exposition of the crystal habit of calcite, the discussion of the pyramidal habit was introduced with a description of the siliceous calcite crystals from the Bad Lands of South Dakota. From the consideration of the pyramidal habit in connection with a notably siliceous occurrence the speaker took up in turn eight occurrences of calcite in which the pyramidal habit was either dominant or notably present, and attempted to show, from association and formation conditions, that this habit of calcite results from calcareous solutions heavily charged with silica. The paper was elaborately and attractively illustrated by blackboard sketches, crystal models, and specimens from the Museum collection.

The death of Dr. Charles R. Van Hise was announced by Dr. Chester A. Reeds and that of Mr. Frederick Braun by Mr. George E. Ashby. Appropriate action was taken by the Club in each case.

Action was also taken authorizing the Treasurer to solicit subscriptions toward making up the balance of a deficit incurred by the publication of the Haüy celebration proceedings in the AMERICAN MINERALOGIST and \$65 was at once contributed by three members present.

The December meeting was held jointly with the N. Y. Microscopical Society on December 11, 1918, and was devoted to illustrations of various methods of employing the microscope in the study of minerals, Mr. R. M. Allen and Dr. G. F. Kunz, presidents of the two societies, successively presiding.

The illustrations were: First: By means of apparatus belonging to the N. Y. Microscopical Society, several series of thin sections of various minerals mostly made and described by the exhibitors were projected on the screen by both ordinary and polarized light. Among the exhibitors were R. M. Allen, James Walker, J. P. Wintringham, and George E. Ashby.

Second: Upon conclusion of the above exhibition, the room was lighted and a variety of special exhibits were arranged under numerous microscopes, mostly brought by the exhibitors. Each of these was first described to the entire assembly and again after adjournment to those who viewed it in the microscope, by the exhibitor. Among these exhibits were the following: Mr. R. M. Allen, sections of several minerals by polarized light; Mr. G. E. Ashby, chiefly opaques of several minerals. Mr. T. I. Miller, 295 Rakestraw mounts to illustrate the ease of transportation of such a collection, and a new "day-light Mazda lamp"; Mr. J. P. Wintringham, quartz containing liquid inclusions which volatilized when warmed and recondensed when cooled; also microcline by polarized light; Mr. H. P. Whitlock, etch figures on crystals of pyrite; The secretary, wire copper, native and wire copper in copper matte; cartons of 12 Rakestraw mounts, one set of white, another of colored minerals, and lantern slide photographs of them on ordinary and autochrome plates; also a folding portable aluminium stand for Mazda or other incandescent lamps, made by the exhibitor.

GEORGE F. KUNZ, *President*

WALLACE GOULD LEVISON, *Secretary*

THE PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

WAGNER FREE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, MARCH 13, 1919

A stated meeting of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date with the president, Dr. Leffmann, and later, the vice-president, Mr. Trudell, in the chair. Thirty-one members and visitors were present.

The executive council announced the schedule of 1919 field trips.

Dr. Edgar T. Wherry addressed the society on "*Practical Applications of Crystallography.*" The application of crystallographic and optical methods of research to artificial salts and organic substances was described, and the superiority of such methods in preciseness and rapidity in the identification of artificial compounds was shown. Recent work on alkaloids, dyes, explosives and sugars in the crystallographic laboratory of the Bureau of Chemistry was described. The talk was illustrated with a series of lantern slides showing the optical phenomena,—double refraction, pleochroism, interference colors and figures, etc., exhibited by the crystals. The paper was discussed by Dr. Leffmann, and Messrs. Boyle and Koch.

Mr. Warford described a new limonite-geode locality, in a railroad cut, one half mile south of Oreland, Montgomery Co. Some of the geodes were lined with goethite. Specimens were exhibited. Mr. Gordon reported excursions to Lafayette, Black Horse, Lenni, and Frankford, with negative results.

SAMUEL G. GORDON, *Secretary*