

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

THE NEW YORK MINERALOGICAL CLUB

At the meeting of January 15, postponed from January 8, 1919, the announced paper was presented by Prof. Benjamin K. Emerson on "The Use of Minerals as Characteristic Fossils in Determining the Age of Rocks."

Prof. Emerson described the distribution of certain minerals, especially chialstolite of various varieties of habit, thru the rocks of New England, each habit serving perhaps to characterize the rock in which it prevails.

Maps, black-board sketches and numerous apposite specimens were used to illustrate his highly interesting paper.

The February, 1919, meeting postponed from February 12, was held on the 19th inst. Owing to the absence of the announced speaker and also of the president, Mr. William T. Palmer was elected Chairman pro tem.

Mr. J. P. Wintringham showed an orthoclase or soda-microcline in contrast with labradorite, the latter with its well-known play of colors on a polished face cut in the direction of 010. The former shows a delicate blue or nearly white mother of pearl effect, when cut about at right angles to both the good cleavages 001 and 010, that is seen in very few collections.

The Secretary by request exhibited the "vise trimmer" and explained the "chisel holder," which were described in the February number of the AMERICAN MINERALOGIST.

The Chairman, Mr. Palmer, gave a very interesting account of a research in the qualitative analysis of minerals by photographing and measuring the characteristic bright line spectra of the elements, as produced in the electric arc, and comparing them with those shown under similar conditions by the minerals under examination.

MEETING OF MARCH 19, 1919. This meeting postponed from March 12 was held as usual at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, with the President, Dr. George F. Kunz, in the chair, and sixteen persons present, ten being members.

After a business meeting Mr. H. P. Whitlock presented for inspection a number of specimens of minerals recently acquired for the Museum collection comprising apophyllite and calcite crystals of exceptionally large size from Great Notch, N. J., gmelinite from Snake Hill, N. J., and garnet of special interest from New York.

The Secretary exhibited minasragrite from Minasragra, Peru, metaheuwetite from Utah and euxenite from Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Mr. Thomas I. Miller exhibited a specimen of cleavable quartz from Howard House, Del. Co., Pa.

The announced paper of the evening on the versatile uses of the petrographic microscope was then presented by Major Fred. E. Wright, of the Geophysical Laboratory, Washington, D. C. It was an illustrated review of his paper on

"The Petrographic Microscope in Analysis" published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, Vol. 38, No. 9, Sept., 1916.

By reference to a high-grade instrument placed before the assembly its various parts were first explained and then by combination with suitable accessories, especially an arc light in a metal case, it was used as a projecting lantern by means of which beautiful projections of growing crystals were shown with polarized light upon the screen. These were chiefly organic substances fused on slides under cover glasses, which re-crystallized as they cooled.

WALLACE GOULD LEVISON, *Secretary*.

THE PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Wagner Free Institute of Science, April 10, 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. Sixteen members and two visitors were present.

Dr. Herman Burgin addressed the society on "Some scraps of history and some experiences in connection with the mines on the Perkiomen and Pickering Creeks." The geology of the district was described, introductory to a general history of the Perkiomen, Ecton, and Wheatley group of mines, and the various ventures and attempts to operate them. Data was given of the extent of the old workings. Photographs of the old mines and works were exhibited, and a series of specimens from the Wheatley mine, collected during its operation. The communication was discussed by Messrs. Leffmann, Trudell, Koch and Gordon. Dr. Egee exhibited sphalerite from the Napoleon mine.

Mr. Trudell reported the results of the first 1919 society excursion to Mullica Hill, N. J., with Messrs. Knabe, Gordon, and Frankenfield. Vivianite and fine specimens of aragonite pseudomorphous after belemnites were obtained. Mr. Warford exhibited hematite from Edge Hill.

SAMUEL G. GORDON, *Secretary*.

NOTES AND NEWS

Sir William Crookes, the English chemist, died on April 4, 1919, in his eighty-seventh year. He was the author of a number of contributions to mineralogy; and it is particularly appropriate that the principal mineral of the element thallium, which was discovered by him, should bear the name crookesite in his honor. We hope to include a further account of his life and work in a future number.

Abstracts from back numbers of German and other foreign mineralogical journals which are now being received will be published as promptly as possible.

In a review of Wade's "Text Book of Precious Stones," published in our March number, mention was made of the method proposed for determining whether a stone was doubly refracting or not, by observing the transmission of sunlight. We have since been informed that this test was first worked out and used in teaching by Professor G. M. Butler, now dean and director of the University of Arizona College of Mines and Engineering, and Arizona Bureau of Mines, at that time professor in the Colorado School of Mines. No credit for this was given in the reviewed book, so we are glad to make this acknowledgment here.