

THE TRAP QUARRY AT MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

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While not a famous locality in the sense that it has furnished minerals for a long period of time or become widely mentioned in the literature, the trap quarry at Meriden is a mineral locality easily reached by collectors, and it affords a plentiful supply of several minerals. It is located about $2\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers ($1\frac{1}{2}$ miles) northwest of Meriden station in the eastern edge of the Hanging Hills, and only a short walk from the end of the North Colony Street car line. Like most trap quarries in Connecticut, this quarry is opened in the middle diabase sheet, an extrusive lava flow which lies between beds of massive shale and sandstone. Here the trap is a vesicular lava, and is in two distinct flows. The rock which is quarried and crushed is mostly an amygdaloidal basalt, which is considerably altered. Near the top of the lower flow there is much rock which has a deep maroon color and contains small cavities filled with calcite and deep-green diabantite.

The secondary minerals of the trap are deposited in amygdaloidal cavities which may reach 20 centimeters in diameter and in veins up to 10 cm. wide which may persist for 20 meters. The most abundant mineral is colorless to pale yellow calcite, which forms groups showing varied crystal habit. The crystals reach 2-3 cm. in diameter; many of them are scalenohedral and display a number of forms. Quartz is common in druses of brilliant crystals lining cavities and coating other minerals, much of it being of a pale amethystine hue. Chalcedony and other forms of amorphous or cryptocrystalline silica occur lining geodes or filling veins solidly. Anhydrite occurs in large pearly masses showing cleavage surfaces often 10 cm. or more broad. There is abundant evidence that anhydrite has been present in almost universal distribution, but it now remains undissolved only in the centers of the less pervious blocks of rock. Molds of anhydrite crystals varying from stout prisms to exceedingly thin sheets are abundant everywhere. Anyone who entertains a doubt as to the origin of the rectangular molds in the New Jersey zeolite specimens would surely have that doubt dispelled by visiting Meriden. Some of the veins and large amygdaloidal cavities are lined with fine little datolite crystals; these are to be described in the *Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum*.