## NOTES AND NEWS

On December 7, a party consisting of the following members of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society: Messrs. Biernbaum, Boyle, Flack, Ford, Frankenfield, Gordon, Hagey, Jones, Knabe, Oldach, Trudell and Van Artsdalen, spent a most interesting and delightful day at the beautiful home of Colonel Washington A. Roebling, at Trenton, N. J., viewing portions of his immense mineral collection.

The party was greatly impressed by the many rare, beautiful and unique specimens seen and handled. The comfort of the visitors was most carefully looked after by the Colonel and his household and when the party departed, about four o'clock, it was with a deep feeling of appreciation and gratitude to Colonel Roebling for his kindly courtesy in extending the privilege of viewing such a magnificent collection of wonders. H. W. T.

AMETHYST QUARTZ IN SERPENTINE. H. E. McKinstry. *West Chester, Pa.*—In an account of the minerals of Brinton's Quarry, Chester County, Pa., published in this journal,[1] I stated that the reported occurrence of amethyst at this locality was probably in the adjacent gneisses and not in the serpentine. Recently, however, I have seen in the collection of Mr. Willard Brinton of West Chester, Pa., a specimen of the amethyst from Brinton's Quarry collected by Mr. Joseph H. Brinton. It is an aggregate of closely-crowded small crystals, resembling in form the drusy quartz so common in the serpentine, but showing an amethystine tint. Amethyst should therefore be placed among the weathering products in the paragenetic list of the minerals from this locality. Its occurrence in the serpentine of this neighborhood is so unusual that it is certainly worthy of note.

THE SPECIES RANK OF GUADALCAZARITE. Edgar T. Wherry. *Washington, D. C.*—While engaged in the study of the nomenclature and classification of the sulfide minerals, in connection with work at the U. S. National Museum, the writer was impressed by the weight of the evidence that mercuric sulfide, HgS, is trimorphous. As this view has been discounted in most recent mineralogy books, a brief reference to the situation seems worth while. The two best known forms of this compound are: cinnabarite, which crystallizes trigonal-trapezohedral, is red in color, and has the specific gravity 8.1; and metacinnabarite, which is cubic-tetrahedral, black, and 7.8 in sp. gr. The name guadalcazarite was given by Petersen in 1872 to a mercuric sulfide containing small (and negligible) amounts of zinc and selenium, of rhombohedral form, black color, and the still lower specific gravity 7.15. In 1890 Melville described rhombohedral-hemimorphic crystals from New Almaden, California, with black color and the specific gravity 7.12. He called it metacinnabarite, and the occurrence is so referred in the mineralogy books but the properties are those of guadalcazarite as above listed. As a complete difference in crystal form is ordinarily regarded as sufficient evidence of individuality of species, and as in this case so diagnostic a property as specific gravity points in the same direction, it is concluded that *guadalcazarite* deserves the rank of a definite mineral species.

[1] McKinstry, H. E. The Minerals of Brinton's Quarry, Chester Co., Pa. *Am. Min.* 1, 61, 1916.