

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

NEW YORK MINERALOGICAL CLUB

*Regular Monthly Meeting of Wednesday, February 11, 1920*

The regular monthly meeting of the New York Mineralogical Club was held in the Academy Room of the American Museum of Natural History on the evening of February 11th, at 8.15 P.M. The President, Dr. George F. Kunz presided and there was an attendance of 33 members and visitors. Mr. M. L. Morgenthau and Mr. Antonio Esposito were proposed for membership.

Proceeding to the discussion of the evening, the subject of which was Siliceous Wood Replacements, Mr. Whitlock discussed the general problem, and showed how the opalized wood specimens from Virgin Valley, Nevada, tended to throw light upon the sequence of colloidal silica replacement, in this instance from hot solutions. The question at issue is, does the process of opalization proceed from a nucleus outward, ultimately filling the cavity, or does it take place inward, after the manner of formation of a geode.

Mr. Ashby pointed out that agatized wood ordinarily shows no traces of the bark preserved in the process of silicification. In discussing this statement, Mr. Allen called attention to a specimen of agatized wood which showed evidence of bark, and described microscopic slides made from it. Mr. Manchester exhibited a specimen of agatized wood showing quartering. Mr. Walker exhibited a specimen of wood partly changed to lignite.

Dr. Kunz discussed the formations from which the Arizona fossil wood is obtained, drew attention to its structure, and confirmed the statement of Mr. Ashby that no specimen had been obtained which showed clearly an outer layer of bark. He advanced the theory that the tree fragments had floated down to their present location, losing in the process considerable material from the outer layers. He stated that wood replacement by agate and jasper was the result of silicification from cold solutions, while opalization indicated a hot or warm solution as the silicifying agent. He characterized the Nevada opalized wood as fire opal rather than precious opal, and advanced the theory that the colloidal centers were probably due to dehydration. In discussing the association of the fossil opal replacements, Dr. Kunz stated that the Nevada wood opals occur in beds of volcanic ashes, while the New South Wales opals are found in sandstone.

HERBERT P. WHITLOCK,  
*Recording Secretary.*

PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

*Wagner Free Institute of Science, February 12, 1920*

A stated meeting of The Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date with the Vice-president, Mr. Trudell, in the chair. Twenty-four members and visitors were present. The names of Mr. E. O. C. Acker, James Rahill, and R. Weckerly, were proposed for active membership.

Mr. John A. Manley addressed the society on "A Trip to Iceland." Mr. Manley described the geology of the island, its people and their customs, etc.

Due to the torrential character of the streams, the roughness of the country, and bad weather, Mr. Manley was obliged to forego active mineral collecting. It was rumored that the Iceland spar locality on the eastern coast was practically exhausted. A large number of pictures, and products of the island were exhibited. Upon the close of his interesting communication the speaker was tendered a vote of thanks.

Mr. Gordon exhibited a specimen of a new occurrence of thomsonite, as a druse of minute crystals, with natrolite, from Lenni, Delaware County. Mr. Warford exhibited spencerite from British Columbia, and several other minerals.

SAMUEL G. GORDON, *Secretary.*

### MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

#### *Committee on Affiliation with the Geological Society of America*

At the invitation of the Council of the Geological Society of America, President Kraus of the Mineralogical Society of America appointed a committee of three, Messrs Kraus, Wherry, and Whitlock, to meet with a Committee of the Council of the Geological Society. The meeting took place in the office of secretary Hovey in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, on Saturday, February 14, 1920; the representatives of the Geological Society present were Messrs. Hovey, Mathews, Shaw, David White and President I. C. White.

The matter of affiliation was fully discussed, and a tentative agreement was reached. This is to be taken up at the next meeting of the Council of the Geological Society of America, after which announcement will be made of the details of the plan of affiliation adopted. E. T. W.

## NEW MINERALS

### SPHENOMANGANITE.

G. FLINK: Sphenomanganit von Långbanshyttan. (Sphenomanganite from Långbanshyttan. *Geol. Fören. Förh.*, 41 (4), 329-336, 1919.

NAME: from the fact that it is a manganite of sphenoidal habit. This name is put forward provisionally; should it later be shown that all manganite is sphenoidal, the prefix may be dropped.

#### CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC PROPERTIES

Same as for manganite, except that the crystals show a sphenoidal habit. The prominent sphenoid is 121 on right hand side. Rarely an ill defined left sphenoid is observed. Some of the crystals are of thick tabular habit. One new form  $\sigma(140)$  is present.

#### CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Analyses by Mauzelius on small samples gave: (1)  $\text{SiO}_2$  0.11,  $\text{Sb}_2\text{O}_3$  0.25,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  0.35,  $\text{MnO}$  79.60,  $\text{O}$  8.76,  $\text{MgO}$  0.87,  $\text{CaO}$  tr.,  $\text{PbO}$  0.10,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  10.16, sum 100.22. (2)  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  0.7,  $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3$  81.1,  $\text{MnO}$  8.1,  $\text{MgO}$  0.6,  $\text{BaO}$  1.6,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  7.3, sum 99.4 per cent. Sp. Gr. = 4.29.

#### OCCURRENCE

Occurs on calcite and barite at Långban (Långbanshyttan).