

DISCUSSION: The mineral differs in no essential respects from francolite, especially from the fibrous variety of francolite, the "staffelite." The analyses given, made upon impure material, differ but slightly from the analyses of francolite from other occurrences.

W. F. FOSHAG.

#### "Meyersite"

CARL ELSCHNER: *Kolloid Zeit.*, **31**, 94 (1922).

NAME: In honor of H. H. Meyers, Industrial Fellow, Mellon Institute, University of Pittsburgh.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: A hydrous aluminum phosphate,  $\text{AlPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .  $\text{AlPO}_4$ , 66.33%;  $\text{FePO}_4$ , 2.52%;  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 26.10%.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES: Apparently a colloid, perhaps metacolloidal, with agate-like bands.

OCCURRENCE: At Necker Island (near the Hawaiian Islands) in the cavities of a lava flow associated with guano and phosphatized coral limestone and apparently the result of the infiltration of phosphoric acid from the guano.

DISCUSSION: In general appearance and chemical composition this mineral is entirely similar to callainite. Both of these are apparently metacolloidal, and unless optical examination later shows it to be different, meyersite should be placed with that mineral.

W. F. F.

### CLASS: HYDROUS SILICATES

#### Chinkolobwite

ALFRED SCHOEP: Sur la Chinkolobwite, nouveau minéral uranifère du Katanga (On Chinkolobwite, a new uranium mineral from Katanga). *Bull. Soc. Belg. Geol. Pal. Hydrol.*, **33**, 87 (1923).

NAME: From the locality, *Chinkolobwe*, Belgian Congo.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: A hydrous silicate of uranium, suggested to be dimorphous with soddite. No analysis given.

CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC PROPERTIES: Rectangular, prismatic plates, system not stated.

PHYSICAL AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES: Color, canary yellow. Plane of the optic axis perpendicular to the elongation of the crystals. The plates are almost normal to the emergence of an optic axis. Elongation negative. Optical character negative.  $\beta = 1.635$ ,  $\gamma = 1.646$ .

OCCURRENCE: Found as a felted mat of needles on a specimen of soddite.

DISCUSSION: The optical properties as far as are given indicate a new mineral but the data is too meager to class this as a well differentiated type.

W. F. F.

## PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

### PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

*Academy of Natural Sciences, April 10, 1924*

A stated meeting of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date with the vice-president, Mr. Trudell, in the chair. Twenty-one members and twenty-one visitors were present. Upon favorable recommendation of the council, the following were elected active members: Messrs. Thomas Stewart, Edmund Cienkowski, and George Faust. The following names were proposed for

active membership by Dr. Wills, Mr. Millson, and Mr. Cienkowski; Messrs. J. Carroll Moerk, Thomas J. Lewis, and Harold Rosen.

Mr. Horace Blank addressed the society on *The minerals of the rare earths*. The discovery of the rare earth elements and their difficulty of separation were described, introductory to an account of their chemical relationship and classification. The principal rare earth elements were then described, illustrated by many specimens, as well as a number of prepared salts. The absorption spectra of solutions of some of the salts were exhibited in a spectroscope. A rising vote of thanks was extended to the speaker for his interesting communication.

The following trips were described: Mineral Hill and Lima, Delaware County, by Mr. Biernbaum; Germantown quarries, by Mr. Knabe; Howellsville, by Dr. Wills; Wissahickon quarries, by Mr. Cienkowski; and Vanartsdalen's quarry, by Mr. Hoadley.

Mr. Cienkowski proposed that a series of prizes be offered to the boys of the Northeast High School for the best collections of minerals formed during the year. Mr. Biernbaum's special class in field mineralogy for the High School boys had proven so popular that it has been necessary to change the meeting place from Mr. Boyle's home to the High School. After a brief discussion, the chair suggested that if Mr. Cienkowski would draw up a plan, it would be approved by the society.

SAMUEL G. GORDON, *Secretary*.

## NOTES AND NEWS

On May 26th Colonel Washington A. Roebling, Vice-president of the Mineralogical Society of America, celebrated his eighty-seventh anniversary. On this occasion a luncheon was served at his home for a few relatives and friends.

Industries Bulletin No. 101 of the South African Geological Survey gives full details regarding the recent discovery of platinum in South Africa. The bulletin was prepared by Percy A. Wagner and Tudor G. Trevor. The prevailing country rock is a felsite underlain by granite. There are numerous quartz-impregnated faults in the region and the main platinum lode occupies one of them. An abstract of this bulletin will be found on page 510 of *Science*, June 6, 1924.

Mr. Earl V. Shannon has recently described in the proceedings of the U. S. National Museum a new argentiferous sulphobismuthite of lead and copper. The mineral has been named *benjaminite*, in honor of Dr. Marcus Benjamin of the U. S. National Museum.

## ABSTRACTS

THE POLYNARY MISCIBILITY OF GARNET MINERALS. W. EITEL. *Z. Krist.*, **56**, 526-31, (1921).

Of the garnets examined 15% were quaternary or quinary mixed xls., 60% ternary, and 17% binary mixtures. Elaborate 5-component diagrams showing the relationships are given.

PAUL BOONE.

STABILITY OF THE GLASS AND CRYSTAL PHASES OF SILICA. RUDOLF WIETZEL. *Z. anorg. allgem. Chem.*, **116**, 71-95, (1921); thru *Chem. Abstr.*, **16**, 3575, 1922.

The following systems were studied: quartz glass-cristobalite, quartz glass-quartz crystal, and cristobalite-quartz glass. There is a discussion of the relative solubilities of the various modifications of SiO<sub>2</sub>.

E. F. H.