A NOTE OF CORRECTION, S. C. Lind, *Washington, D. C.*

In our paper in The American Mineralogist, of October 1923, on "The Coloring and Thermophosphorescence Produced in Transparent Minerals and Gems by Radium Radiation," reference was made on page 175 to synthetic emerald. The reality of synthetic emerald having been questioned, we have made some inquiry with the following results:

The specimen referred to was a cut "stone" received through commercial channels under the designation "synthetic emerald." We are informed that while this term is current, it is not accepted by the most ethical jewelry trade, and when used at all is understood to refer to an imitation in glass or in some more precious material. Determination of the density, hardness, and optical properties of the specimen in question has shown it to be such a glass imitation.

As to whether or not emerald has ever been truly synthesized, there appears to be much doubt. The literature is summarized in Hintze's Handbuch der Mineralogie, 1897, vol. 2, p. 1292. It is outside the scope of our present interest to enter into this question.

Re-examination of our experimental material has been extended to all specimens about which there could be any question. The only additional correction that appears necessary refers to another specimen received under the designation "smoky topaz." Its physical properties indicate it as smoky quartz which is quite commonly referred to as "smoky topaz." Its coloration under radiation was entirely similar to that exhibited by other smoky quartz varieties.

We are indebted to Mr. C. W. Davis, of the Bureau of Mines, Professor J. C. Jones, of the University of Nevada, and Dr. W. T. Schaller, of the Geological Survey for assistance in these identifications.

NOTES AND NEWS

Dr. E. T. Wherry, past-president of the Mineralogical Society of America, has been appointed a member of the executive committee of the Chemical Society of Washington.

The next annual meeting of the Mineralogical Society of America will be held at Ithaca, New York, December 29-31, in conjunction with that of the Geological Society of America.

Senate Bill 937 proposes that there shall be an executive department to be known as the Department of Mines, and a Secretary of Mines, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, who shall receive a salary of $12,000 per annum and whose term and tenure of office shall be like that of the heads of other executive departments. On many occasions Senator Shortridge has addressed mining conventions in the West favoring and urging the establishing of such a Department as his bill provides for. He will seek an early consideration of the proposed measure by the Senate Committee on Mines and Mining and hopes for and expects a favorable report.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the announcement of the discovery of radium to the Paris Academy of Science, was celebrated on December 26 at the Sorbonne with ceremonies over which M. Millerand presided. As an evidence of national appreciation, the chamber of deputies passed a bill conferring on Mme. Curie an annuity of forty thousand francs, which was presented to her on this occasion.

Dr. Oliver C. Farrington, curator of geology in the Field Museum of Chicago, returned from a seven months' exploring expedition in the interior of Brazil.

The death is reported of Professor L. Milch, the distinguished petrographer of the University of Giessen; also of Dr. Karl Mieleitner of the University of Munich, noted for his many contributions to mineralogy and crystallography.

The March issue of THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST will contain the proceedings of the fourth annual meeting of the Mineralogical Society held in Washington, D. C. on December 29, 1923. The presidential address and short abstracts of the papers presented will be found in that issue.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Academy of Natural Sciences, November 8, 1923

A stated meeting of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date, the President, Mr. Vaux presiding. Eighteen members were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The four men whose names were proposed at the October meeting were elected to membership in the Society. Mr. Trudell reported some progress in the matter of a club exhibit but that many details still awaited consideration. There being no further business Mr. M. G. Biernbaum addressed the Society on the subject, "*Crystallography from the Viewpoint of the Field Mineralogist.*"

Prefacing his remarks by a brief reference to the Greek and Latin prefixes and roots whose various combinations form a key to the nomenclature of crystallography, he then indicated the differences in symmetry that mark the various crystal systems. Models and diagrams were used to advantage thus furnishing a broad, general working basis for the field determination of crystallized minerals.

Mr. Keeley exhibited a cut blue zircon, stating that while there was still some doubt as to the origin of this specimen, he felt that it might represent a new find, probably Madagascar. The cause of the color is still an open question. Mr. Vaux stated that his information regarding this zircon favored Policeman's Knob, Australia, as the locality. Describing the largest blue zircon in his possession he pointed out that when kept in the dark for several days it changes to a deep straw-brown, while a short exposure to the light restores the rich blue color. However, when held in a certain manner a plane of brown color is always present in this gem. Mr. Keeley stated further that a red heat destroys practically all color but the color is again restored upon cooling. He did not believe the color due to uranium oxide which is rather characteristic of ordinary zircon.

Mr. Hoadley reported upon a trip to Ossining, N. Y. with Professor Rogers and two members of the New York Mineralogical Club, at which time malachite,