

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

NEW YORK MINERALOGICAL CLUB

Regular Meeting December 12, 1923

A regular monthly meeting of the New York Mineralogical Club was held in the East Assembly Room of the American Museum of Natural History, on Wednesday evening, December 12 at 8:15. The President, Dr. George F. Kunz, presided. There was an attendance of 30 members. The Recording Secretary reported the resignation of Mr. Wintringham from the Membership Committee, and moved that the chair appoint a new Committee to function immediately. The motion being carried the President appointed Messrs. Ashby, Stanton and Hoadley.

The President then introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. Oliver Bowles of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, who spoke on the "*Physical Characters of Nonmetallic Minerals.*" He described the functions of the various branches of the Bureau, emphasizing the research work in nonmetallic minerals, exclusive of fuels, which is the division of the work assigned to the Rutgers Station of which the speaker is in charge. In speaking on the properties of the nonmetallic minerals, Dr. Bowles dwelt upon the complexity of the physical properties which characterize members of this group and showed how these properties directly influenced the use of many of them commercially, as instanced by the many physical defects which influence the value of mica for use in electrical work. He also spoke of the problems connected with the separation of some economic minerals from their associated species owing to small differences in specific gravity.

In discussing special and remarkable instances of the influence of physical characters of minerals on economic problems connected with their use, Dr. Bowles called attention to the instance where the decrepitation of fluorite at a moderate heat was utilized to break the mineral up before grinding it for flux. He described how the adaptation of "sillimanite" for spark plugs was accidentally discovered while experimenting on artificial porcelain for this purpose, and how when commercial deposits of sillimanite were unavailable, a means for converting andalusite into sillimanite was found. He told how, armed with typical specimens of massive andalusite, prospectors succeeded in locating an extensive deposit of it in Mono County, California, and how it was now being used extensively in the manufacture of spark plugs.

In speaking of other nonmetallic minerals which have recently entered the economic class, Dr. Bowles mentioned cyanite which has been found of value as a refractory substance, and beryl which is being used as a substitute for feldspar in electrical porcelains.

Mr. Nevel of Auburn, Maine, exhibited and spoke of some of the rare minerals recently discovered at Buckfield, Me. At this locality eosphorite, reddingite, fairfieldite and lithiophyllite have been found which seems to link the occurrence with that of Branchville, Conn. Mr. Nevel also showed tourmaline replacements and some interesting shells of lepidolite. Dr. Rogers exhibited anthophyllite from Baychester Avenue in the Bronx. He also reported on a trip to Branchville where large spodumene crystals, albite in many varieties, apatite and good autunite specimens were obtained.

HERBERT P. WHITLOCK, *Recording Secretary*

PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Academy of Natural Sciences, December 13, 1923

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 one visitor were present.

Mr. Frank J. Keeley addressed the society on the "*Phenomena of Polarized Light*," in which the production of polarized light, and the phenomena of refraction were clearly described, illustrated by blackboard sketches. A rising vote of thanks was extended to the speaker for his very instructive talk.

Mr. Vanartsdalen described a trip to Flushing, Bucks Co., with Mr. Oldach, where enstatite was found. Mr. Trudell described a trip with Messrs. Frankenhof, Oldach, and Boyle, to Moore Station, N. J., exhibiting very attractive specimens of calcite. Mr. Warford described a trip to Lafayette. Mr. Hoadley gave an account of a trip to Branchville, Conn.

Messrs. Trudell, Biernbaum, and Blank described the trip of the society on December 2nd to view the magnificent display of minerals of Col. William Boyce Thompson at Greystone, N. Y. The following twelve members constituted the party: Trudell, Biernbaum, Hallowell, Gordon, Clay, Boyle, Broadbelt, Blank, Vanartsdalen, Wills, Oldach, and Knabe. SAMUEL G. GORDON, *Secretary*

Academy of Natural Sciences, January 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. Thirty-four members and visitors were present. Mr. Harold Arndt, Haddon Heights, N. J., upon favorable recommendation of the council, was elected an active member.

Mr. Samuel G. Gordon addressed the society on "*The Second Vaux-Academy Expedition: Greenland, 1923*." The work of Giesecke, Stenstrup, Flink, Unding and Bøggild, were described, introductory to an account of a season spent at Ivigtut, Kangerdluarsuk, Narsarsuk, and Tunugdliarfik. The geology and physical features of the country were described, illustrated with a series of lantern slides. A selected suite of rocks and minerals were exhibited.

J. C. BOYLE, *Sec. pro tem*

NEWARK MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

The sixty-second meeting of the Newark Mineralogical Society was held on the appointed day in January. As this was an open meeting it was attended by 22 visitors and a large number of members.

The discussion for the day was "*Minerals Found within 15 miles of the Newark City Hall*." There was a large display of specimens by the members. Mr. Bates spoke on the original finds at the Erie R. R. cut at Jersey City; on Dr. W. E. Hidden; the Paterson quarries; and on how New Jersey predominates as a locality for the zeolites; also mentioning an Ellenville (N. Y.) quartz weighing 90 pounds.

Mrs. Miller exhibited some common ores—copper, zinc, lead, iron. Mr. Broadwell spoke on some local specimens. Mr. Reamer discussed the quarries at E. Summit, and Capt. Miller spoke on names of minerals and gave several amusing experiences of collectors. Mr. Thowless spoke on the Ellenville open mouth mine.

Under the Radio section devoted to "*Minerals Used as Radio Detectors*" Capt. Miller spoke on the minerals used as detectors, of which there are 13, all of high symmetry. He stated that all minerals used in this manner are rectifiers of electricity, converting alternating current to direct current.

Previous to the open meeting a short business session was called at which one new member was elected to membership. Several other applications are pending.

WM. H. BROADWELL, *Secretary*

NOTES AND NEWS

REQUEST FOR UNPUBLISHED DATA. The Editorial Board of International Critical Tables will appreciate receiving from scientific investigators any numerical data which they are able and willing to furnish, which have not been published prior to January 1, 1924. All data are desired which characterize the behavior of any definite material, substance or system. For the purpose of this request, such data will be divided into two classes, as follows: Class I: data which constitute the only information of the kind available; Class II: data which, in the opinion of the investigator, substantiate, extend or improve upon existing information of the same kind.

In connection with data belonging to both classes, the following information should be given: (a) an exact definition of the material, substance, or system to which the data apply; (b) the investigator's estimate of the accuracy of the values; (c) the name of the investigator or investigators responsible for the measurements; (d) the laboratory in which the investigations were carried out; (e) a brief statement of the experimental method used; (f) an exact statement of the units in which the data are expressed; and (g) any other supplementary information necessary for the complete characterization of the data.

For data belonging to class II, such additional data should be furnished as will enable the Expert in charge of this class of data to critically evaluate the new in comparison with the older data. Manuscript or corrected page proofs should be furnished where possible.

Any data belonging to class I received prior to January 1, 1925, and any data belonging to class II received before July 1, 1924, will be in time for inclusion in International Critical Tables, and the source of all data so included will be indicated by "Private Communication from, etc." or in such other manner as the author may prefer; unless a literature reference becomes available before going to press. Data determined by members of the staff of a research laboratory should be forwarded through the Director of the laboratory. All data should be sent to *International Critical Tables, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.*

Professor Austin F. Rogers of Stanford University spent the fall months at Columbia University. He conducted two classes in crystallography and also gave the following series of lectures before the Department of Geology and Mineralogy:

- (1) The Mineralogy and Petrography of Fossil Bone.
- (2) The Contact-Metamorphic Deposit at the Mountain Lake Mine near Salt Lake City.
- (3) The Magmatic Sulfide Ores.
- (4) X-Rays and Crystal Structure.
- (5) A Study of Crystal Symmetry.