

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

A new occurrence of erionite.

WHILE slip-cataloguing the zeolites in the British Museum collections, in 1938, I was unable to identify two specimens from the Allan-Greg collection (B.M. 96224 and 96225). These specimens are two very similar half-geodes (perhaps even two pieces of one geode) without matrix, and consist of a layer about 5 mm. thick of a white, compact fibrous mineral with low birefringence, straight extinction with positive elongation, and refractive index about 1.47, on which are crystals of chabazite; they were obtained by the eminent Scottish collector T. Allan before 1825, and are described by him: '27. Chabasie, in very perfect cristals, disposed in a geode of mesotype tinged on the surface of a bright orange. Faroe.' and '28. Chabasie, another similar geode, containing an irregular cristal of chabasie, ? or possibly a particular species. From Faroe.'

Dr. F. A. Bannister took an X-ray powder photograph of one of the specimens (B.M. 96225) in July 1939, but with the outbreak of war this film was set aside unexamined until this summer. We now find that it exactly matches a powder photograph of type erionite. The specimens differ markedly from those from the known erionite occurrences¹ where the mineral occurs in seams and not in geodes; the fibres are shorter and more firmly compacted, and although there is, unfortunately, no matrix present and the only associated mineral is chabazite, it is probable that the specimens are from the Faroese basalts and represent a very different paragenesis.

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¹ L. W. Staples and J. A. Gard, *Min. Mag.*, 1959, vol. 32, p. 261; K. S. Deffeyes *Amer. Min.*, 1959, vol. 44, p. 501.

Coronadite from Cumberland.

DURING a recent visit by students of this department to the Carrock-Caldbeck area of Cumberland, Mr. B. N. Twombly collected a specimen containing an unknown silver-white metallic mineral from the upper cross-cut dumps in Dry Gill. Very generously the specimen was placed at my disposal.

Data derived from X-ray powder photographs of the mineral agreed with the spacings given by Frondel and Heinrich¹ and by Neumann and Sellevoll² for coronadite, $\text{MnPbMn}_6\text{O}_{14}$. Material from Bou Tazoult, Imini, Morocco, kindly supplied by Dr. H. Neumann, of the Mineralogical Museum, Oslo, allowed a direct comparison of photographs to be made. There is no doubt that the Dry Gill mineral is coronadite.

Further confirmation was obtained from a qualitative spectrographic analysis of the material carried out by Miss J. M. Rooke in this department. Mn was present as a major element, Pb as a minor, with traces of Al, Ba, Ca, Co., and Fe.

The coronadite is found with massive quartz, psilomelane, and campylite, the well-known mineral association from the upper dumps in Dry Gill. It occurs in two forms:

As a silver-white, inclining to steel-grey, metallic mineral when fresh, tarnishing to a dull black. The habit varies from massive to fibrous, the fibres being especially well developed when the mineral is botryoidal, not only as radiating fibres within the body of the globules, but as minute acicular crystals on their surface giving the appearance of black velvet.

As a dull black, fibrous, botryoidal mineral, indistinguishable from psilomelane in the hand specimen. This form was X-rayed in the expectation of confirming the presence of psilomelane; obviously a re-examination of much of the psilomelane from Dry Gill might well be of interest.

The occurrence of coronadite in Dry Gill adds weight to the idea that the gill is part of a manganiferous outer zone, associated with the centre of tungsten mineralization in Grainsgill to the south. The manganese moved northwards along a series of north-south faults, which are especially well seen in Brandy Gill and fault the Dry Gill vein itself.

This is the first record of the occurrence of coronadite in the British Isles.

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¹ Amer. Min., 1942, vol. 27, p. 48.

² Vid.-Akad. Avh. Oslo. I. Mat.-Naturv. Kl. 1955, no. 3.

*Molybdenite associated with Laxfordian gneisses at
Loch Stack, Sutherlandshire.*

AN occurrence of molybdenite, associated with amphibolites adjacent to a quartz-albite-oligoclase pegmatite, has been found in a road cutting $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles north of Achfary, near the southern shore of Loch Stack, Sutherlandshire.