

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

NEW YORK MINERALOGICAL CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting of December 18, 1929

A regular monthly meeting of the New York Mineralogical Club was held at the American Museum of Natural History on the evening of December 18, 1929, with an attendance of 29. First Vice-President Frederick I. Allen presided in the absence of the President.

Messrs. Samuel Butler, George E. Dunlop, and S. Benedict Levin, of New York City, Thomas Rea of Brooklyn, and Joseph J. Stegle of Bronxville, N. Y., were elected to membership.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. J. W. Radu, a member of the Club, who discussed "*The Radium Mines of Joachimsthal, Czecho-Slovakia.*" The mines are situated in the Erzgebirge, near the Saxony border, in a region of mica schists and slates, penetrated by igneous rocks. The radium ore (uraninite or pitch-blende) occurs associated with dolomite in veins in the schist. The mines have been worked intermittently since the 16th century, first for silver and lead, but more recently for uranium and radium exclusively. The radium produced is practically free from mesothorium.

The speaker described his trip through the mines, and praised the hospitality of the management. He exhibited a number of excellent specimens of the uraninite.

Mr. Morton exhibited minerals from various localities in Virginia, and reported finding erythrite at West Paterson and native silver at the Prospect Park quarry, Paterson, New Jersey.

HORACE R. BLANK, *Secretary*

Minutes of the Meeting of January 15, 1930

A regular monthly meeting of the New York Mineralogical Club, attended by 50 persons, was held at the American Museum of Natural History on the evening of January 15, 1930, with 1st Vice-President Frederick I. Allen in the chair.

Miss Litta L. Voelchert, of New York City, was elected to membership.

Dr. Edward Sampson, of Princeton University, addressed the Club on "*Some Mineral Deposits of Southern Africa.*" After briefly outlining the geology of South Africa, he discussed the diamond-bearing pipes and other objects of interest in the vicinity of Kimberley, such as the alluvial diamond diggings, the salt pans, and Permian glaciated surfaces.

The gold mines of the Rand were discussed at some length, the speaker favoring the theory of the placer origin of the gold, and emphasizing the success of geologic work in locating extensions of the ore-bearing "reefs."

The Bushveld complex of igneous rocks, and the ores which accompany it, were then described. Tin ores, accompanied by tourmaline, occur in pipes. Platinum ores occur in banded norite, in dunite pipes, as contact deposits, and in pegmatites. Sperrylite, in large crystals, and the still rarer minerals stibiopaladinite and cooperite occur in these deposits.

Occurrences of chromite and asbestos were also touched upon.

The lecture was illustrated by a series of lantern slides, a number of excellent maps and charts, and a large group of specimens representative of the minerals and rocks described.

HORACE R. BLANK, *Secretary*

PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Academy of Natural Sciences, December 5, 1929

A stated meeting of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date, Mr. Charles R. Toothaker presiding. Upon favorable recommendation of the Council Messrs. Albert Ackoff, James R. Eichna and Henry Guent were elected to Junior Membership. The names of Messrs. H. E. McNelly, A. E. Mason and Norman Booker were proposed for membership. The president read excerpts of an article on "Semi-precious Stones in the Soviet Union." Mr. Frederick H. Oldach addressed the meeting on "*Minerals in Pegmatite Veins.*" Beginning with the molten magma the speaker outlined the process of differentiation, introductory to the classification of the solidified magmas. He stressed the importance of studying the melting point of pure minerals and mixtures of minerals. Specific examples of the various pegmatite types were shown and at the same time attention was called to the peculiar presence or absence of certain minerals or groups of minerals in closely related types. A short discussion followed. Several junior members displayed some very attractive quartz crystals recently found near Bridgeport, Pa., and Mr. Williams showed beryl of unusual quality from Leiperville. Attendance 62.

LESTER W. STROCK, *Secretary*

BOOK REVIEW

SEDIMENTARY PETROGRAPHY. HENRY B. MILNER. Second revised and complete edition. XXI+514 pages with 41 plates. Thomas Murby & Co., London; D. Van Nostrand Co., New York, 1929. Price \$8.50.

Mineralogists and petrologists will welcome the appearance of the second edition of this excellent work on sedimentary petrography. No longer will it be necessary for the student to make time consuming shifts from the "Introduction" (published in 1922) to the "Supplement" (published in 1926) and *vice versa* in order to obtain all the recorded information. However, the present volume is not a mere blending into one book of the material previously disseminated through two smaller texts. Naturally most of the descriptions and cuts of the earlier works have been embodied in the second edition after careful revision. At the same time entirely new chapters have been added so that in its present form the book can serve as a comprehensive treatise on the petrology of both the consolidated as well as the unconsolidated sediments. In fact one chapter of approximately 100 pages is devoted exclusively to a systematic description of *thin sections* of sedimentary rocks.

The book in its present form consists of eleven chapters with three appendices. While it is difficult to give an adequate review in the space allotted, some idea of the wide scope of the work may be gained from the following chapter headings: (1) Introduction to the study of sedimentary rocks; (2) Surface and subsurface samples, storage and records; (3) Laboratory technique; (4) Microscopical examination of