

Mr. Albert J. Walcott, a graduate of the University of Michigan, and for the past three years engaged in research work in optical glass with the Bausch & Lomb Optical Company, has been appointed lecturer in mineralogy at Northwestern University.

Dr. Oliver Bowles of the United States Bureau of Mines has been admitted as an honorary member of the Institution of Quarry Managers of Great Britain.

Two extensive lists of new mineral names have recently appeared: Neue Mineralien, by Arthur Schwantke, *Fortsch. Min. Krist. Petr.*, 7, 154-174, 1922, and Ninth list of new mineral names, by L. J. Spencer, *Mineralog. Mag.*, 19 (98), 334-354, 1922. Many of the new species referred to in these lists have been abstracted in THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST, others will appear in the near future.

Bulletin 724 of the U. S. Geological Survey contains an interesting account of the nitrate deposits in the Amargosa region of southeastern California. The nitrate-bearing material (caliche) resembles in character and mode of occurrence the caliche of Chile, but the quantity of nitrate that could be produced would be very small and the cost high. Though these deposits are the most promising in the United States the development from a commercial standpoint was found to be impracticable.

### CORRECTION

I regret that in my article on the plagioclase feldspars I misquoted Dr. Alling; the following corrections will serve to make the references to his work more accurate: Page 115, line 7, after 'Alling' delete the words 'suggested that this is the case.' Line 8, for 'but' read 'and'; delete 'no'; line 10, for 'really' read 'not'; line 11, delete 'on the contrary.' Footnote, for page 193 read 237. Page 116, line 6, delete 'as for instance in the monograph on the feldspars by Alling.' E. T. W.

### NEW MINERALS: NEW SPECIES

FAMILY: SILICATES. DIVISION: R': R'': R''': Si=1:3:1:5

#### Torendrikite.

A. LACROIX: A series of potassic alkaline-syenite rocks with sodium minerals from Madagascar. *Compt. rend.*, 171, 594-600, 1920; this mineral, pp. 595-596; also, *Minéralogie de Madagascar*, vol. 1, p. 541, 1922.

NAME: From the locality, *Torendrika* (or *Itorendrika*) in the valley of the Imorona, Madagascar.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: Formula, approximately  $\text{Na}_2\text{O} \cdot 0.4\text{MgO} \cdot \text{CaO} \cdot \text{FeO} \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 10\text{SiO}_2$ . Theory  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  5.6,  $\text{MgO}$  14.5,  $\text{CaO}$  5.0,  $\text{FeO}$  6.5,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  14.4,  $\text{SiO}_2$  54.0. Analyses by Raoult of material from two distinct localities gave:  $\text{SiO}_2$  52.52, 54.10;  $\text{TiO}_2$  0.57, 0.42;  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  2.59, 1.00;  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  12.95, 13.02;  $\text{FeO}$  5.51, 8.09;  $\text{MnO}$  0.73, n.d.;  $\text{MgO}$  14.74, 12.81;  $\text{CaO}$  3.86, 3.82;  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  4.51, 5.24;  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$  1.43, 0.94; F 0.09, 0.12;  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  0.41, 0.12, X—, 0.31, sums 99.91, 99.99%.

This is regarded as the first member of a distinct group of amphiboles, intermediate between those of richterite, imerinite, and glaucophane.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES: Color, brilliant bluish black; under the microscope very pleochroic,  $\gamma$  pale yellow,  $\beta$  violet,  $\alpha$  sea blue. Extinction is incomplete in white light, but approaches  $40^\circ$ . Sp. gr., 3.15 to 3.21.

OCCURRENCE: A constituent of eruptive alkaline-syenite rocks occurring in the high plateau of Madagascar. In part found in chalcedonic masses, evidently residual from aplite or pneumatolytic veins. E. T. W.

#### Unnamed

G. F. HERBERT SMITH: A curious crystal from Binn Valley, Switzerland. *Min. Mag.*, 19, 40, 1920.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES: Color steel gray, luster metallic, streak black. Sp. gr. 4.2.

CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC PROPERTIES: A twinned crystal when measured failed to show angles in agreement with any of the minerals thus far described and apparently represents a new species. It is tabular in habit and probably triclinic;  $a:b:c=3.3425:1:3.5536$ ;  $\alpha=90^\circ 0'$ ,  $\beta=102^\circ 8'$ ,  $\gamma=90^\circ 0'$ . Tables record both observed and calculated values.

OCCURRENCE: Found loose in a collection of minerals from the Binnenthal, labeled "scleroclase?" W. F. H.

### DOUBTFUL SPECIES

FAMILY: ELEMENTS. DIVISION: NON-METALS

#### "Daiton-sulfur."

T. WADA: Minerals of Japan, 2nd. ed., 1916; this mineral p. 19; through *Min. Abstr.*, 1, (3), 63, 1921; original in Japanese, not seen.

NAME: From being a form of *sulfur* peculiar to the locality, *Daiton*.

PROPERTIES: A monoclinic form of sulfur distinct from  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  sulfurs, described by M. Suzuki, *J. Geol. Soc. Tokyo*, 22, 343, 1915.

DISCUSSION: To be classed as a variety of *Sulfur, monoclinic*, now considered a definite mineral species, *J. Wash. Acad. Sci.*, 7, 451, 1917. E. T. W.

#### "Rubber-sulfur."

T. WADA: *op. cit.*, p. 21.

NAME: From being a form of *sulfur* with the general properties of *rubber*.

PROPERTIES: Amorphous and plastic.

DISCUSSION: To be classed as a variety of *Sulfur, amorphous*, now considered a definite mineral species; *op. cit.*, p. 452. E. T. W.

FAMILY: HALIDES. DIVISION: ?

#### "Pseudomendipite."

E. RIMANN: Chubutite and the significance of its discovery. *An. Soc. Quim. Argentina*, 6, 326, 1918; through *Min. Abstr.* 1, (5), 121, 1921, and *Min. Mag.*, 19, (98) 348, 1922; (original not seen).

NAME: From *pseudo*, false, and *mendipite*.

PROPERTIES: Said to have the formula  $3\text{PbO} \cdot \text{PbCl}_2$ , but the analysis quoted does not support this formula.

DISCUSSION: Requires confirmation.

E. T. W.