NEW MINERALS

Merrillite

**Merrillite, meteoritic calcium phosphate.** Edgar T. Wherry, Washington, D.C.

In two recent papers¹ Dr. George P. Merrill, of the National Museum, has called attention to the existence of a calcium phosphate mineral in a number of stony meteorites. As the properties of this substance agree more or less closely with francolite it was provisionally referred to that species. It differs from francolite, however, in several respects, as shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Francolite</th>
<th>Merrillite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crystallization</td>
<td>Pseudo-hexagonal, built up of six sectors.</td>
<td>Not built up of sectors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optical character</td>
<td>Often pseudo-uniaxial</td>
<td>Always biaxial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optical sign</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Positive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composition</td>
<td>10 CaO·CaF₂·3P₂O₇·CO₂; apparently free from F and CO₂.</td>
<td>xCaO·yP₂O₅; apparently free from F and CO₂.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These differences are sufficient, in the writer's opinion, to indicate the meteoritic phosphate to be a distinct species, and it seems appropriate that this species should be named after its discoverer.


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**ABSTRACTS OF MINERALOGICAL LITERATURE.**


A description of the formation of hollow spindle-shaped grains of sulfur in crater lakes by the decomposition of ascending sulfurous gases. E. T. W.


Fibrous crystalline celestite of typical color occurs 4 miles northeast of Luvic, San Bernardino Co., Cal. It is believed to have been formed by replacement of limestone by hot solutions. E. T. W.


A note on the occurrence in Kern Co., Cal., of scheelite in association with garnet in metamorphosed limestone. E. T. W.


Includes notes on the occurrences of monazite, thoriansite, xenotime, zirkelte, and rhodolite garnet. E. T. W.