The nature of batchelorite.

THE name batchelorite was given by W. F. Petterd[1] to a green slaty mineral found in the Mt. Lyell Mine, Tasmania. He gave the composition as $H_2O.Al_2O_3.2SiO_2$, a hydrated silicate of aluminium, but added, in parenthesis, that the analysis[2] was made on green nodules in the schist. It is evident, therefore, that the composition of batchelorite itself was never determined.

A specimen of batchelorite in the British Museum (B.M. 1956, 300), which, although not a type specimen, was collected from the type locality and conforms in appearance with the type mineral, has been shown by its optical properties and X-ray powder pattern to be muscovite schist. A chemical analysis confirmed this and revealed also that the mineral contains a small proportion of chromium. The analysis, given below, corresponds to the formula:

$$(Na,K,Ca,Ba)_{1.00}\,(Al,Ti,Fe,Cr,Mg)_{2.03}\,(Si,Al)_4\,O_{10.04}\,(OH,F)_{1.98}.$$

There would now appear to be no justification for the retention of the mineral name batchelorite.

Batchelorite from Mt. Lyell, Tasmania (B.M. 1956, 300).

SiO_2 ...	45·1 %	CaO ...	0·7 %	$H_2O(-)$ ...	0·3 %
Al_2O_3 ...	36·4	MgO ...	1·2	$H_2O(+)$ ...	4·0
TiO_2 ...	0·4	Na_2O ...	1·5	F ...	1·0
Fe_2O_3 ...	0·5	K_2O ...	8·8	MnO ...	nil
Cr_2O_3 ...	0·3	BaO ...	0·3	Total ...	100·5
				less O for F ...	0·4
					100·1 %

Department of Mineralogy,
British Museum (Natural History),
London, S.W. 7.

D. I. BOTHWELL
A. A. MOSS

[1] Catalogue of the Minerals of Tasmania, 1910, p. 22, no. 39.
[2] SiO_2 49·4, Al_2O_3 45·1, H_2O 5·6, total 100·1 %.

Beaverite from the Lake District.

BEAVERITE ($Pb(Cu,Fe,Al)_3(SO_4)_2(OH)_6$) was first recognized and identified by us as a British mineral in 1949, the occurrence being briefly recorded in 1952.[1] The first suspected specimens were examined spectrographically and they (as well as others found subsequently) were con-