

On Idocrase and other Minerals recently found near Zermatt.

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SOME Zermatt Guides (Joseph Taugwalder and his brother) made, on a recent excursion up one of the mountains (Pollux ?) in the neighbourhood, the discovery of some very interesting crystals of idocrase and red garnet.

The idocrase crystals are of a dark sherry colour, and are developed in simple forms, the prism-planes $m\{110\}$, $a\{100\}$, and the base $c\{001\}$, being well developed. The edges $[cm]$ are truncated by narrow planes $u\{111\}$, and at the corners small planes $i\{312\}$ are sometimes found. The prism planes are deeply striated, and at the same time the c plane shows more or less coarse squares, which sometimes seem to belong to independent crystals. The sides of the square are parallel to the $a\{100\}$ faces. The crystals have, therefore, much the character of a bundle of thin pyramidal crystals united together in parallel positions.

Both faces c are generally present, but one of them is bright, whilst the other has commonly an incrustation on it or seems to have been corroded. The larger crystals are as much as 30 mm. long by 28 mm. across. One fine specimen is about 30 mm. high, 28 mm. along one normal to m , and only 13 mm. in the direction perpendicular to these. In this latter crystal both c planes are bright, and the square markings are unequally developed on different portions of the same face.

The crystals sometimes show at one extremity a curious change similar to that common in beryls from the Mourne mountains, and which seems to be a result of corrosion.

The almandine crystals associated with the former mineral are of a bright deep red, they consist of the rhombic dodecahedron $\{110\}$ together with the forms $\{211\}$ $\{321\}$. The faces $\{211\}$ are largely developed and much striated, and the faces $\{110\}$ are often reduced to narrow lines.