

The 1908 Siberian meteor is probably the largest that has ever struck the earth. The region of the fall is marshy and more than a mile in diameter. The ground is pitted with deep funnels from 50 to 100 feet in diameter, so that probably the meteorite, with a weight estimated at half a million tons, burst to pieces, bombarding the earth with fragments. At the towns of Kerensk and Ilimsk, 250 miles away, great detonations were heard and pillars of smoke and fire were seen. Railroad officials at Kansk, 400 miles distant, felt the air wave and heard a roaring sound, while the seismographs at Irkutsk, 900 miles away, detected the vibration of the earth when it hit.

Though no human beings happened to be in its path, one herd of 1,500 reindeer belonging to a farmer was annihilated. Only a few scorched carcasses remained. Houses were badly damaged and metal utensils were melted. Trees on surrounding hills were scorched and knocked over; they can still be seen with their tops pointing away from the center. An expedition sent out by the Soviet Government studied the general character of the region. Later borings will be made for pieces of the actual meteorite. This is the first authenticated time that a meteorite did damage to man or animals. It is fortunate that it fell in such a sparsely settled region and not in a large city like New York or London.

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E. E. HESNARD

Emile E. Hesnard, a charter member of the Mineralogical Society of America, died February 17, 1929, at his home in Keystone, South Dakota, at the age of 61 years. With his passing the Black Hills lost its most diligent collector and science an earnest mineralogist. Not having had an extended classroom education in geology and mineralogy, Mr. Hesnard was hesitant about publishing articles on the minerals occurring in his vicinity, but the visitors to the region could not help but be impressed by the depth of his knowledge of Black Hills mineralogy. Mr. Hesnard worked for many years at the Etta mine, and in recent years had been superintendent of mining operations at the nearby Hugo and Peerless pegmatites. Many field superintendents have an uncanny skill in distinguishing the mineral species with which they come in contact, but Mr. Hesnard went very much farther and by ceaseless reading and personal observations became extremely well acquainted with the genetic theories and their local application. Anyone interested in the processes of mineralization of the Keystone pegmatites found inspiration through acquaintanceship with Mr. Hesnard. During his many years in the district he gathered together an imposing collection. He sold specimens to the mineral-distributing firms, but being a true mineral lover he much preferred to trade with collectors from other localities. In addition to his keen mental ability, Mr. Hesnard was an extremely likeable gentleman and was loved by all who knew him.

Mr. Hesnard was born at Flers, France, November 14, 1867. Upon graduating from a local academy at the age of fifteen he accompanied his father to the United States, going directly to Dakota territory and settling near the present site of Hermosa. During the next few years, he lived the life of a pioneer, breaking in the soil and raising cattle. However, he soon became interested in mining and moved to Keystone, where he worked and lived for the greater part of his life. He leaves a wife and three grown children.

In 1925 Mr. Hesnard published a paper in the *Black Hills Engineer, Journal of the South Dakota State School of Mines at Rapid City*, entitled "The Mining of Feldspar near Keystone."

KENNETH K. LANDES

Herbert P. Whitlock, curator of minerals and gems at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, has been appointed honorary curator of mineralogy at the Wadsworth Atheneum and Morgan Memorial, Hartford, Connecticut.

Dr. J. J. Sederholm, director of the Geological Survey of Finland, who was recently awarded the Penrose medal by the Geological Society of America, gave a series of twelve lectures at the University of California on the "Pre-Cambrian problems in Fenno-Scandia."

Dr. K. Spangenberg of Kiel has accepted the professorship of Mineralogy at the University of Würzburg.

The following eminent geologists have died during the latter part of 1928:

John A. Bownocker of Ohio State University and director of Ohio State Geological Survey, on October 20, age 63 years.

T. C. Chamberlain, emeritus professor at the University of Chicago, on November 15, age 85 years.

J. C. Diller, for 41 years a member of the U. S. Geological Survey, on November 13, age 70 years.

Joseph Lukaszewicz, professor at the University of Wilna, age 65 years.

Dr. Michael, director of the Prussian Geological Survey and honorary professor at the Techn. Hochschule at Charlottenburg, on October 30, age 59 years.

W. N. Rice, emeritus professor at Wesleyan University, on November 13, age 83 years.

E. H. L. Schwarz, professor at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, on December 19, age 45 years.

The following have retired from active duty:

J. A. Bancroft, professor of Geology, McGill University.

Dr. Bruhns, professor of Mineralogy at the Bergakademie at Clausthal.

K. Bush, professor of Mineralogy at the University of Münster.

Dr. Emil Ernst of the University of Heidelberg has been called to the University of Münster to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Dr. K. Bush.

Dr. H. Steinmetz of the Bergakademie at Freiberg in Saxony has been offered the professorship of Mineralogy at the Techn. Hochschule at Munich.

Those in charge of the *Journal* wish to suggest that every effort be made by contributors possessing unfinished articles to complete the manuscripts and send them to the Editor before leaving for field work. By so doing it is hoped that sufficient material might be accumulated to insure undelayed issues throughout the summer months.