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A VISIT TO THE ZEOLITE LOCALITY AT NORTH TABLE MOUNTAIN, COLORADO

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RECENTLY the writer had the interesting experience of visiting the zeolite locality in Colorado at North Table Mountain, one of the foothills of the Rockies, near the town of Golden, about ten miles west of Denver. The zeolites occur at different points in the mountain, as well as at South Table Mountain nearby. In geological formation North and South Table are one mountain, cut in two by the erosion of Clear Creek which winds its way from the Rockies thru Golden and Denver. It was in the waters of Clear Creek that gold was first panned in Colorado. Specimens may most readily be secured at a quarry close to the summit of North Table Mountain; this is reached by a steep climb of several hundred feet from the road along Clear Creek, leading into Golden, where runs a trolley line from Denver. The principal use for the stone quarried at this point is in making blocks to place between the rails of Denver's "tram-ways" as the people of that city style their electric street car lines. About two blasts a year produce sufficient material for the blocks, which are hewn by hand at the quarry. After blasts the larger masses of rock are broken up by means of wedges and then chiseled into shape.

The minerals here found are locally described as "water crystals," an appellation derived from the circumstance that cavities in which they abound often contain a large amount of water; the writer was informed that one had contained "several barrels" of water.

The zeolites from the Table Mountains differ considerably in habit and appearance from those of other localities. The mineral most strikingly typical of this locality is mesolite which occurs

in downy aggregations of extremely minute fibers having a resemblance to fluffs of cotton. Exquisite examples are exhibited in the museum of the Colorado School of Mines at Golden. These delicate specimens are very difficult to transport and require to be handled with the greatest care to avoid crushing their extraordinarily gauzy substance. In some cases specimens occur with much stouter fibers, resembling natrolite, and it is difficult to determine whether or not they may be the latter mineral. Another phase of mesolite is a substance like felt or paper, as tho the cobweb-like material had been compressed to a compact mass; this form is called "mountain leather," an appellation also given to some other minerals.

Thomsonite occurs in several forms, which have been described at length by Professor Horace B. Patton of the School of Mines (*Bull. Geol. Soc. Am.*, **11**, 461-474). Some varieties resemble shredded cocoon, while another phase is spherical in form like the variety from the Faröe Islands termed "mesole" or "faröelite."

Chabazite occurs rather plentifully in pale red to whitish crystals, far less handsome than the specimens from Paterson, N. J., and Nova Scotia. They form a very pretty setting, however, when covered with glassy analcite crystals and the spherical form of thomsonite. Professor Patton in the paper above referred to describes some interesting twinned chabazites.

Analcite is represented in both transparent and milky tetragonal trisectahedra of sharp form varying considerably in size. The smaller individuals are very clear and bright, the larger usually milky.

Laumontite and stilbite are found, tho as a rule poorly crystallized. The following minerals also occur at the Table Mountains rather sparingly and seldom of a quality suitable for cabinet specimens: Apophyllite, aragonite, calcite, and levynite. An example of the last mentioned rarity is on exhibition in the Colorado Museum of Natural History in Denver.

This locality is prolific in fine cabinet specimens, and at any time well repays a visit.

A recent excavation in the center of the city of Spokane, Washington, has yielded interesting specimens of sphaeroidite partially coated with hyalite in cavities in basalt.