THE CARR MINERAL COLLECTION

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I WAS asked, recently, by the executor of the estate of the late Silas Carr of Jamestown, R. I., to inventory Mr. Carr's mineral collection. As is too often found in a case like this, not sufficient attention had been given to the labeling; and in overcrowded cases loose labels are apt to become misplaced, especially if the specimens have been handled by the inexperienced. Among other specimens without labels were several pieces of quartz in which are imbedded crystals of black tourmaline averaging nearly half an inch in diameter. Cross-sections of these show a core (from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the diameter of the crystal) of the quartz matrix which is glassy and a trifle smoky. Some of the crystals show that they have been broken and cemented together with the white quartz. I wonder if any of the readers of THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST have noted similar specimens, and from what locality? Some of them strongly suggest Fitchburg, Mass.

Mr. Carr was an enthusiastic collector up to the time of his death, which occurred last May, in his 77th year. He was especially interested in Rhode Island minerals, in which he was well informed, and contributed to "New Finds," the most important of which is "sceptre" quartz, which he discovered in September, 1895, at North Kingstown. These are, indeed, interesting and beautiful little crystals, some of them being equal in form and brilliancy to the famous Herkimer crystals, while others are apparently iron-stained. In length they run from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, including the "stems," which in some cases are nearly twice the length of the "head." Comparatively few crystals show stems of much length but many show where stems have been broken off.

Another of Rhode Island's rarities is octahedrite, from Cumberland. I noted both matrix specimens and detached crystals. Among the other good Rhode Island minerals, I might mention elegant reticulated rutile from Johnston; a masonite specimen with plate nearly 3 x 6 inches, from Natick; amethyst groups from Westerly; a splendid suite of orthoclase and microcline, from a crystal $\frac{3}{8}$ x 2 inches, sharp, perfect, with bright faces, up to crystals and groups 6 inches across, also from Westerly.

The collection also includes many specimens from outside of the state.