

pseudomorphs of calcite after selenite crystals have been reported, as well as some very nice little free selenites, some of which are twinned. One or two twinned calcite crystals 0.5 cm. long were also obtained, rhombohedrons completely filled with white sand after the manner of those from Fontainebleau. Much of the gypsum from the borings has a dark smoky color and upon breaking emits a strong fetid odor.

The rock salt is extensively mined in Louisiana at Weeks Island and elsewhere by means of large underground chambers. The most of the salt is of the familiar granular crystalline sort with but little impurity.

Specimens of old borings, consisting of gypsum and anhydrite, are available at some places (Damon Mound, Texas, being one of them). Under the present war conditions it is often difficult to obtain access to the sulfur properties or the mines.

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## LAZULITE IN AN UNUSUAL FORM

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Some months ago there was received at the National Museum for identification a peculiar rock, evidently a somewhat altered volcanic breccia, so injected with a blue coloring matter as to suggest lapis-lazuli. The manner in which the coloring matter was distributed, a portion of it in the cementing material and a portion actually replacing the original rock fragments, suggested its secondary origin and invited careful tests to ascertain its true nature. Thin sections under the microscope showed the coloring matter to occur as minute scales without crystal form and very irregularly distributed. These had the refractive indices and gave the chemical reactions of *lazulite*, which is a hydrous phosphate of aluminium, iron and magnesium. It is an interesting occurrence since it closely simulates, as above noted, lapis-lazuli (*lazurite*), which has, however, a quite different composition.

The specimen was received from Mr. Frederick L. Whitehead, of Hassel, Montana, who reports that he has found the material, thus far, only as float.