

NEW MINERALS

Merrillite

MERRILLITE, METEORITIC CALCIUM PHOSPHATE. Edgar T. Wherry, Washington, D. C.

In two recent papers¹ Dr. George P. Merrill, of the National Museum, has called attention to the existence of a calcium phosphate mineral in a number of stony meteorites. As the properties of this substance agree more or less closely with francolite it was provisionally referred to that species. It differs from francolite however, in several respects, as shown in the following table:

TABLE 1.

PROPERTY	FRANCOLITE	MERRILLITE
Crystallization	Pseudo-hexagonal, built up of six sectors.	Not built up of sectors.
Optical character	Often pseudo-uniaxial	Always biaxial
Optical sign	Negative	Positive
Composition	$10 \text{ CaO} \cdot \text{CaF}_2 \cdot 3\text{P}_2\text{O}_5 \cdot \text{CO}_2$.	$x\text{CaO} \cdot y\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$; apparently free from F and CO_2 .

These differences are sufficient, in the writer's opinion, to indicate the meteoritic phosphate to be a distinct species, and it seems appropriate that this species should be named after its discoverer.

¹ On the monticellite-like mineral in meteorites. . . *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.* 1, 302-308, 1915; On the calcium phosphate in meteoric stones. *Am. J. Sci.* [4], 43, (4), 322-324, 1917; abstract in *Am. Min.*, 2, (7), 96, 1917.

ABSTRACTS OF MINERALOGICAL LITERATURE.

A PECULIAR PROCESS OF SULFUR DEPOSITION. Y. OINOUE, Cornell University. *J. Geol.* 24, (8) 806-808, 1916.

A description of the formation of hollow spindle-shaped grains of sulfur in crater lakes by the decomposition of ascending sulfurous gases. E. T. W.

A DISCOVERY OF CELESTITE. W. MALLERY. *Mining Sci. Press*, 113 (27) 952, 1916.

Fibrous crystalline celestite of typical color occurs 4 miles northeast of Lavic, San Bernardino Co., Cal. It is believed to have been formed by replacement of limestone by hot solutions. E. T. W.

A NEW SCHEELITE DISCOVERY. W. H. STORMS. *Mining Sci. Press.*, 113 (22) 768, 1916.

A note on the occurrence in Kern Co., Cal., of scheelite in association with garnet in metamorphosed limestone. E. T. W.

RECENT WORK ON MONAZITE AND OTHER THORIUM MINERALS IN CEYLON. ANONYMOUS. *Bull. Imp. Inst.*, 14, 321-369, 1916.

Includes notes on the occurrences of monazite, thorianite, xenotime, zirkelite, and rhodolite garnet. E. T. W.