

EXOTIC MINERALOGY:

OR,

COLOURED FIGURES

OF

FOREIGN MINERALS,

AS A

SUPPLEMENT

TO

BRITISH MINERALOGY.

VOL. II.

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MDCCCXVII.

147.



TAB. CXLVII.
CALX Polyhalites.
Polyhalite.

- SYN. Polyhalite. *Stromeyer in Schweiggers Journal*, 21, 297 et seq. see *Thompson's Annals* 13, 112.
- Fibrous Anhydrite. *Jameson, ed 2. vol. II. p. 249.*
- Fasriger Muriacite. *Werner.*
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A RECENT account of this mineral has been published in the following translation of part of a letter from Professor Stromeyer, as quoted above, by Dr. Thompson :

“ I shall conclude this letter by informing you of a new mineral, very remarkable, on account of its composition. I have given it the name Polyhalite. According to my analysis, 100 parts of it contain the following ingredients :

Hydrous Sulphate of Lime	- - -	28.74
Anhydrous Sulphate of Lime	- - -	22.36
Sulphate of Potash	- - - -	27.48
Anhydrous Sulphate of Magnesia	-	20.11
Common Salt	- - - - -	0.19
Oxide of Iron	- - - - -	0.32
		99.20

“ This mineral occurs in the beds of rock salt at Ischel, in Upper Austria, and has been hitherto erroneously considered by mineralogists as *Muriacite*; and under the name of *fibrous muriacite*, it has been described as a variety of that mineral substance.”

The characters by which it may be recognized are its partial solubility in water, a hardness superior to Fibrous Gypsum ; also a greater specific gravity, and a compact fibrous structure ; between the teeth it feels rather gritty : it is nearly tasteless. When fresh broken it has a shining, slightly pearly surface, which becomes dull and rather whiter by exposure. Its fibres penetrate both ways into the Muriate of Soda, which serves for its matrix ; they are of a dull red in the middle, and yellow brown at their extremities. The salt in which they are imbedded is white.