

parallel to the *b*-axis. The author does not offer any interpretation of these results. I believe that any solution of the ever present problem—are orthoclase and microcline mere polymorphous modifications of the same substance, or does the difference depend upon the type of twinning—can only be obtained through investigations of this kind.

The last paper to which I wish to call attention is by E. D. Mountain of the Department of Mineralogy in the British Museum of Natural History. POTASH-OLIGOCLEASE FROM MT. EREBUS, ANTARCTIC AND ANORTHOCLASE FROM MT. KENYA, EAST AFRICA. *Mineralog. Mag.*, June 1925, pages 331-345.

Mountain has collected 68 analyses of potash-oligoclase and anorthoclase and discusses from his plotted results the optical and physical properties of these feldspars in the hope of finding a suitable criteria for distinguishing potash oligoclase from oligoclase. He reaches the conclusion that a classification of feldspars of this range in composition must be purely arbitrary. He has selected 16 from the above that when plotted lie upon a line truncating the albite corner of the Or-Ab-An ternary diagram running from  $Ab_{65}Or_{35}$ - $Ab_{65}An_{35}$  and shows a series of diagrams showing the extension angles, specific gravities, refractive index, optic axial angles and curve of cleavage angles. He discusses whether in this range of composition there is only one series of triclinic crystals or whether the potassium component as orthoclase enters into the system to give rise to two distinct series of feldspars of this compositional range. He questions whether there are two series which I advocated in the *Journal of Geology* in 1923. I believe that much more work along the same line that Mountain is doing is necessary before many of the problems of the feldspars can be solved.

## NEW MINERALS: DOUBTFUL SPECIES

### CLASS: CARBONTAES

#### "Elatolite"

A. E. FERSMANN: Crystallites of magmatic Calcium Carbonate from Khibinsky and Lovozersky tundras. *Bull. Acad. Sci. Russia*, 17, 251-274 (1923).

NAME: From the Greek *ελάτη*, fir, in allusion to its shape.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION: The mineral is represented by cavities, the original material having been removed. Believed, however, to have been calcium carbonate.

CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC PROPERTIES: The cavities show a trigonal form.

OCCURRENCE: The original mineral was not found but was represented by cavities in the nepheline syenites of the Kola Peninsula, especially in the north-western portion of the "Umptek massif" and the western part of the "Luyavrurt massif."

DISCUSSION: These cavities are believed to represent  $\alpha$  calcium carbonate now leached out. Such forms are certainly not deserving of specific mineral names.

W. F. FOSHAG

### CLASS: SULPHATES

#### "Manganolangbeinete"

F. ZAMBONINI AND G. CAROBBI: Sulla presenza, tra i prodotti dell'attuale attività del Vesuvia, del composto  $Mn_2K_2(SO_4)_3$ . (On the presence, among the

products of the actual activity of Vesuvius, of the compound  $Mn_2K_2(SO_4)_3$ .  
*Rend. Accad. Sci. Fis. Mat. Napoli*, **30**, 123-126 (1924).

NAME: In reference to its composition, a *manganese*, potassium sulphate analagous to *langbeinite*.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION: Contains manganese and potassium. Believed to be analagous to langbeinite. Formula:  $2MnSO_4 \cdot K_2SO_4$ .

CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC PROPERTIES: Isometric, tetrahedrons.

PHYSICAL AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES: Color rose red. Isotropic;  $n=1.572$ .  
Sp. Gr. 3.02-3.03.

OCCURRENCE: Found as small crystals in stalactites of thenardite and halite with sylvite and apthitalite in a cavern formed in Sept.-Oct. 1922 in the lava of Vesuvius.

DISCUSSION: This mineral agrees in properties with the artificially formed salt. Its chemical composition should be further investigated. W. F. F.

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## NOTES AND NEWS

It is with pleasure that we reproduce the photograph of Colonel Washington A. Roebing as the frontispiece of this issue. The late arrival of the photograph prevented its use in the March number where it should have appeared to accompany the announcement of the Colonel's generous gift.

Colonel Washington A. Roebing has received so many congratulatory letters regarding his gift to the Mineralogical Society that he has been unable to answer them all individually. He has asked that the following statement be inserted in the Journal: "Col. Roebing desires to express his thanks for the grateful appreciation of his gift to the Mineralogical Society from all over the country and Canada. He is pleased that it has been his privilege to contribute to the advancement of this science, a science which is the gateway to the ultimate constitution of matter."

The recent endowment will now permit of an expansion in the size of the Journal. From suggestions already received there seems to be a demand for a larger number of original articles together with a more liberal allowance for cuts and illustrations. Suggestions are invited from all the members of the Society who wish to state their views on the needs that should be given first consideration.

A request has been received for the Journal to publish the names of those members who wish to exchange specimens and thereby enlarge their mineral collections. Those desiring to engage in such an exchange are asked to notify the Editor. The list of names thus obtained will then be printed from time to time in the *Mineralogist*.