

NOTES AND NEWS

In June, 1925, Professor Walter Noddack of the University of Berlin and his assistants, Ida Tacke and Otto Berg, reported that they had found the X-ray spectra of the missing elements 75 and 43 of the periodic tables in the platinum ores from the Ural Mountains. Recently Dr. O. Zvjaginstev of the Platinum Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences has repeated the experiments of Professor Noddack using rare metals from the same source with negative results. It would seem, therefore, that at the present time the status of these two elements is still in doubt.

Mr. Samuel G. Gordon of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society attended the Jubilee of the Mineralogical Society (London) as a representative of the Mineralogical Society of America. Following the meetings Mr. Gordon spent some time in Professor V. Goldschmidt's laboratory at Heidelberg, Germany.

Dr. George P. Merrill, head curator of geology in the National Museum, has returned to Washington after attending the Fourteenth International Geological Congress at Madrid. While abroad he visited the museums at Madrid, Paris, Berne, Zurich, Prague, Brussels and London.

Dr. William F. Foshag has returned to the U. S. National Museum after spending some time in Mexico collecting minerals.

Professor Ray C. Treasher of the State College of Washington calls attention in *Science* (Oct. 1, 1926, p. 332) to the advantages of a portable binocular for the determination of opaque minerals in the field. A Leitz binocular with a BSM-A type prism body, mounted on a sliding column was used which with 15 \times oculars gives a magnification of 45 diameters. The binocular has a long working distance and large field of vision which permits two or three reactions to be observed simultaneously. This feature reduces considerably the time required for the determination.

Dr. Johannes Berger, professor of mineralogy and petrography at the University of Tübingen, has been called to the chair of mineralogy and geology at the Hanover Institute of Technology.