

BOOK REVIEW

LEHRBUCH DER MINERALOGIE. II, SPEZIELLE MINERALOGIE

P. NIGGLI in collaboration with L. Weber. Large 8-vo., XVI+697 pages, with 330 figures. Gebrüder Borntraeger, Berlin, 1926. G. M. 30.

This is the second volume of Niggli's mineralogy which is undergoing a thorough revision. Volume one, devoted to general mineralogy, appeared in 1924 (*Am. Mineral.* 10, 104, 1925).

Volume two is devoted entirely to special or systematic mineralogy. The presentation is interesting but extremely novel for, as is characteristic of Niggli's work, conventional methods and classifications are discarded. Crystal structure is made the basis of Niggli's classification, which of course means that minerals with strikingly different chemical compositions are brought together. Thus, in one section all minerals belonging to the cubic system or having a pseudo-cubical development are discussed. The morphological relationships, as well as other important physical, and chemical properties are stressed. Only brief reference is made to the formation and occurrence of minerals. Localities are generally omitted.

The volume contains a large amount of valuable data drawn from all possible sources without, however, citing the original contributions.

E. H. KRAUS

NOTES AND NEWS

NOTE ON MINERALS FROM THE MAHOPAC MINE,
PUTNAM COUNTY, NEW YORK

JAMES H. C. MARTENS, *Cornell University*

Besides the minerals described by Gillson¹ the writer has collected from the dumps at the Mahopac Mine several additional minerals whose occurrence is here briefly mentioned.

Pyrrhotite is found abundantly on the mine dumps associated especially with mica but often occurring with the other silicates.

Chalcopyrite occurs with the pyrrhotite in small amounts.

Pyrite occurs rather sparingly and does not furnish any good specimens.

Calcite, coarsely crystalline, of pink to white color, with bent cleavage faces and polysynthetic twinning strongly developed was found containing good crystals of scapolite.

✓ *Dolomite*. This is very coarse grained and is found with talc, chlorite, and other magnesium silicates. It contains enough iron so that it weathers brown.

Epidote of the common pistacite variety occurs in fine grained form with black hornblende; also in striated crystals up to a few centimeters in length embedded in calcite with scapolite and hornblende.

Talc occurs in masses of scaly crystals associated with dolomite and actinolite. Much of it has evidently been formed by the alteration of the latter mineral.

Titanite of the common brown variety occurs in small amounts in some of the blocks consisting principally of hornblende; also in small crystals of somewhat lighter color in veins of diorite pegmatite.

¹ *Am. Mineral.*, 11, (No. 10) pp. 281-286, October, 1926.

Dr. William D. Coolidge of the research laboratory of the General Electric Company has been awarded the Edison medal for 1926 by the Edison committee of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers "for the origination of ductile tungsten and the fundamental improvement of the X-ray tube."

Any member of The Mineralogical Society of America who desires a certificate of membership may secure same by writing to the secretary, Professor Frank R. Van Horn, Case School of Applied Science, Cleveland, Ohio.

A decennial index of THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST covering volumes 1-10 will be prepared and offered for sale sometime during the current year. Orders can be placed with the Editor now as the size of the edition will be determined largely by the number of pre-publication orders. Information concerning the price of the index will be given at a later date.

Our stock of early issues of THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST is badly depleted and as there is an increasing demand for complete sets of the Journal the Council of the Society has authorized funds to provide for the reproduction of the issues of 1916-1920 by a new photographic process. Members and subscribers to the Journal who in the past have been unable to secure complete sets, or fill out their broken files, will be able to purchase the necessary numbers as soon as the new stock becomes available.

A news dispatch in the press a short time ago stated that the "great ruby of Russia," for many years considered one of the most valuable of Russian crown jewels, has been declared by Professor A. E. Fersman to be rubellite from Burma.

A note in *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* calls attention to a large deposit of cyanite at Burnsville, North Carolina, near the Tennessee border. The minerals associated with cyanite include feldspar and mica. The deposit is owned by the Pollard Clay Co., of Burnsville, who propose to work the deposit.

Dr. Edgar T. Wherry of the Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., has been elected president of the Washington branch of the American Chemical Society.

As a result of core drilling in the southeastern corner of New Mexico ten beds of potash minerals (polyhalite, sylvite, etc.) aggregating nearly thirty feet in thickness were discovered at depths ranging from 790 ft. to 1760 ft. The potash minerals showed a K_2O content as high as 18.5%. (The average run-of-mine minerals of the Stassfurt beds have a potash content of 8-10 per cent). At a depth of about 1430 ft. a seventeen inch bed of langbeinite was found. Other core drillings are necessary to determine the extent of these potash deposits.

Potash deposits have also been found in Russia, in the district of Solikamsk, government of Perm. The Russian deposits are found over an area almost 1000 sq. mi. in extent and at a depth of only 300 ft. from the surface.

A new magazine known as *Rocks and Minerals* has recently been started by Peter Zodac, 157 Wells Street, Peekskill, New York. It is to appear quarterly and according to the editor will be devoted "chiefly to rocks, minerals, ores, crystals and gems, in the interest of the general collecting public." We extend to Mr. Zodac our best wishes for success in his new venture.