in addition, the careful microscopic study which is required to
determine whether or not the materials described are homoge-
neous has not always, nor indeed often, been made. A number
of such so-called minerals are no doubt mechanical mixtures.
The author would be glad to get a few tiny crystals of fischerite
from the original locality for a determination of its optical con-
stants. An equivalent exchange can be furnished, thru the
National Museum.

THE PROBABLE IDENTITY OF FISCHERITE WITH
WAVELLITE

EDGAR T. WHERRY

In the preceding note Mr. Larsen has shown that the so-
called fischerite from Hungary is unquestionably different from
the original fischerite. From a study of the literature the writer
has come to the conclusion that the original fischerite itself is
not a distinct species, but is probably only wavellite.

Crystallographically fischerite is supposed to possess a different
prism angle from wavellite; the crystals are, however, very poor
and not terminated by pyramids, and are therefore difficult to
orient correctly; 61° 28', the measurement given as made between
two prism faces of fischerite may accordingly equally well have
been made between one prism face and a side pinacoid face; the
corresponding value for wavellite is close to 61°.

The optical properties assigned to the two are essentially iden-
tical. The orientation and character is the same; one of the
indices of refraction of wavellite is 1.552, and one of fischerite is
said to be practically the same, 1.555, the others not being known
in the case of this mineral; the axial angle of wavellite is about
75°, while that of fischerite is given as "66° 4', but variable,"
and it might readily vary as much as 9°.

The only analysis of fischerite extant was made on a minute
quantity of impure material, and except in the water content,
may readily be in error several per cent. The water, determined
by loss or ignition, is likely to be approximately correct, and the
27.50% assigned to fischerite lies within the limits shown by
different specimens of wavellite (26.5–28.3%).

Altho none of the original fischerite has been obtainable for
redetermination of its properties, the published descriptions thus
certainly indicate the probability of its identity with wavellite.