

## NEW MINERAL NAMES

### Rankinite

C. E. TILLEY: Tricalcium disilicate (rankinite), a new mineral from Scawt Hill, Co. Antrim. *Mineral. Mag.*, **26**, 190-196 (1942).

NAME: For G. A. Rankin, formerly physical chemist at the Geophysical Laboratory, who, with E. S. Shepherd and F. E. Wright, studied the systems CaO-SiO<sub>2</sub> and CaO-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-SiO<sub>2</sub> and first found the compound.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: The composition is Ca<sub>3</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>. Insufficient material was available for quantitative analysis, identification being based on optical properties and microchemical tests. Gelatinizes readily in weak HCl-H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> solutions, precipitating abundant gypsum. Contains no Mg nor Al. Unaffected by prolonged heating at 1100°. Melts incongruently at 1475°.

OPTICAL PROPERTIES: Monoclinic,  $\alpha=1.640-1.641$ ,  $\beta=1.644$ ,  $\gamma=1.650$ ,  $2V_764^\circ$ , positive;  $b=\beta$ ,  $\alpha$ : edge of (001) = 15°. These data agree with those given by Gordon (*Am. Mineral.*, **8**, 110 (1923) on crystals from slag.

OCCURRENCE: Found in two associations at Scawt Hill, Ireland; (a) as rounded or irregular grains in melilite rocks, associated with larnite or wollastonite in melilite, and (b) at the contact of flint nodules in metasomatized limestone, as a narrow zone of crystals separating wollastonite and larnite. Artificial material is also described from blast-furnace slag and from limestone xenoliths in glass from a bottle factory.

MICHAEL FLEISCHER

### Correction

On page 619, Table 1, line J, in the column on observed epsilon index, the value 1.695 is that of epsilon *prime* rather than epsilon.