

resin, namely Danish *rav*, Swedish *raf*, from the Old Norse name of the substance, *rafr*, a word which stands alone among the older Teutonic languages. Elton, in his *Origins of English history*, p. 61, suggests that this latter name may have some connection with Raunonia, an island mentioned by Timæus (Pliny, *N. H.*, 4, 27) as being one day's journey from the Scythian shore, where the amber was cast up by the waves in the spring season. The Finns and Esthonians call amber *meri-kivi* and *merre-kivi*, both words meaning "sea-stone."

Amber is thrice mentioned by Homer in the *Odyssey* (iv, 73, xv, 460, xviii, 296), and it is interesting to note that the most important reference (*Od.*, xv., 460) mentions it as an article of commerce in the hands of the Phœnicians. In the Authorized Version of the Bible the Hebrew לְשֵׁן has been doubtfully rendered "amber" in the three passages in Ezekiel in which it occurs (i, 4, 27; viii, 2). The meaning of the Hebrew word has puzzled commentators from Talmudic times to the present day. Delitzsch, the Assyrian scholar, has identified it with the Assyrian *ēšmarū*, which was a shining metallic alloy, and this meaning seems best to fit the requirements of the passages in Ezekiel, where something metallic and shining is intended. A high authority, Professor Ridgway, maintains, however, that the word in these passages of Ezekiel really means amber.

NOTES AND NEWS

Professor Alfred C. Lane, of Tufts College, who spent several months teaching mineralogy in the American Expeditionary Forces University at Beaune, France, has returned to the United States.

Professor Lane recently compiled for the publication "Lefax," "Tables for the recognition of minerals" and "Table for determining common rocks." These are printed on sheets about 10 x 17 cm., arranged for filing with other similar data. The information is greatly condensed, beryl for instance being described thus: 8 Beryl 2.7 Be₂ Al₂ Si₆ O₁₈ x sq. ended pr. H. 1.579—0.006 Ass. 21. Light green aquamarine, dark emerald, yellow.

Dr. Austin F. Rogers has been promoted from associate professor to professor of mineralogy and petrography at Stanford University.

Mr. J. C. Hostetter has resigned from the Geophysical Laboratory to carry on research work for the Steuben Glass Works, Corning, New York.

Mr. Harry F. Gardner has been appointed mineralogist in the New York State Museum, Albany.