

fortunately this in itself is not sufficient to determine the species with certainty. Leaves and blossoms are also required, and a specimen of amber containing both the wood and leaves belonging to it has not yet been found. Hence the difficulty of deciding the question whether amber belongs to the genus *Pinus* or *Picea*. Göppert's designation, "*Pinites succinifer*," which leaves it indefinite whether it is a pine or a fir-tree, is, therefore, generally accepted. Göppert determined no less than 163 species of plants found in amber, which he classified into 64 genera and 24 families.

The amber resin appears to have been shed in very different stages of liquidity. Sometimes it was glutinous, sometimes it fell in drops from the branches, thus yielding the "drop" and "icicle" forms. These drops vary in size from that of a pea to that of a medium-sized orange. Others have dropped from the trees while in a more fluid state and are flattened out and show the impression caused by falling. Sometimes, again, the drop fell on leaves, the form of which it preserves with remarkable delicacy. From its abundance it is evident that the trees must have been as productive as the present day *Dammara australis* of New Zealand, the twigs and branches of which are so laden with white resin as to have the appearance of being covered with icicles. The largest known mass of amber is in the Museum in Berlin; it weighs over 8 kilograms and is said to be valued at \$30,000.

(To be continued)

## NOTES AND NEWS

Mr. William F. Foshag, a recent graduate of the University of California, has been appointed assistant curator of the Division of Mineralogy and Petrology, U. S. National Museum.

Mr. Whitlock calls our attention to an error in his paper on "Pyrite crystals from Broadway and 207th Street, New York City," published in our April number. The form described as the trapezohedron (766) is really another form, its correct symbol being (655). A change should be made accordingly both in the text and in the table on page 31; and on page 32, in the third line of the table, in the angle column the same change should be made, while in the calculated angle column the value should be  $49^{\circ} 41'$ .

We take this occasion to remind subscribers whose subscriptions expired with the June number that we will greatly appreciate it if they will send in their renewals promptly, without waiting to receive bills.