

NOTES AND NEWS

UNUSUAL MINERALS IN LIMESTONE NEAR YORK, PA. MORTON L. JANDORF. *York, Pa.*—The Cambro-Ordovician limestones of the York Valley are as a rule free from minerals of the heavy metals, but in one narrow stratum exposed about 5 meters down in a new quarry near the city the writer has recently observed small amounts of sphalerite, associated with a series of alteration products provisionally identified as greenockite (xanthochroite), smithsonite, aurichalcite and hydrozincite. Galenite appears to be entirely absent. The dolomite is siliceous, and shows occasionally thin quartz seams. Cavities in it may contain minute dolomite and quartz crystals, tufts of aurichalcite, and occasionally pyritohedral crystals of pyrite altered to limonite. Cavities with 60° angles are sometimes observed, which evidently represent the result of the dissolving away of sphalerite crystals, without any replacement.

It has been possible to trace this stratum for a distance of over 250 meters. At the surface there is no indication of contact phenomena with any igneous rocks, although about 1 km. away there is a diabase dike. None of the contact minerals usually developed in dolomite-limestone by the action of diabase are, however, in evidence.

The amounts of metallic minerals present are apparently too small for the material to be of value as an ore, but the occurrence has considerable scientific importance, and the writer will be glad to exchange specimens with anyone interested.

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THE COLORS OF MINERALS, PARTICULARLY PRECIOUS STONES. DR. C. DOELTER. 96 pages. Friedr. Vieweg & Sohn, Braunschweig, Germany. 1915 [Prior notice prevented by inability to obtain it in this country].

An excellent summary of our knowledge of the subject. About 60 minerals are discussed, and the inorganic origin of the colors of most of them demonstrated. The methods of study of the causes of color are presented at some length, altho there is no adequate discussion of absorption spectra. Luminescence is, however, fully treated. The greatest attention is paid to the action of radium rays, and the many remarkable colorations produced by them are described in detail.

E. T. W.

According to literature received from a company now selling stock, the mineral amphibole, "the great new wealth" (by which they mean amphibole asbestos), is about to be turned into wealth for its stockholders. The chief uses proposed are as a permanent mold in which to cast metals, as furnace lining, as pipe-covering, as electrical insulation, etc. They claim to control large deposits of this mineral in a region "rich in rubies, sapphires, carborundum, and other old volcanic products"(!)