

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES
NEW YORK MINERALOGICAL CLUB

Regular Monthly Meeting, Wednesday, December 10, 1919

The regular monthly meeting of the New York Mineralogical Club was held in the American Museum of Natural History on the evening of December 10th, at 8.15 P.M. The President Dr. George F. Kunz presided, and there was an attendance of 25 members. Mr. J. B. Erickson and Dr. John B. Ferguson were duly elected, and Mr. William Maurer was proposed for membership.

The president then introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. John M. Clarke, state geologist of New York, who made an address on "High Lights and Shadows in New York Geology and Mineralogy." After giving some highly interesting reminiscences connected with the early days of the New York Geological Survey, Dr. Clarke spoke of the present work of the Survey, referring to the hypothetical average seeker after geological information, whom he quaintly characterized as "the man from Steventown." He made an appeal for coöperation among geological workers thruout the state, and stated that the means of handling every scientific problem should now be possible thru such a coöperation among state officials in the various departments as had resulted from the handling of war problems. He spoke of the necessity of coöperation between similar departments and Surveys in other States.

Turning to the darker side of the administration of the New York State Survey, he deplored the present difficulties encountered in printing scientific papers and reports, and stated that there were at present two memoirs and 15 bulletins ready for publication which must wait for the action of the Legislature to appropriate funds for their printing. In this connection the speaker appealed to the New York Academy of Sciences for a memorial to the State Legislature, asking that this highly important material be printed. Dr. Clarke dwelt on the mineral wealth of New York, which was represented not by precious metals, but largely by such useful non-metallic products as salt, gypsum and limestone.

In speaking of mineralogical and geological "fakes" he called attention to the fact that this was the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of the "Cardiff Giant." He outlined the history of this historic fake and spoke of James Hall and his connection with the Cardiff Giant, reading several pages from his manuscript of the Life of James Hall, which related to this phase of New York Geological History. Passing to other deceptions which have been imposed upon the New York public, he enlarged upon spurious mining claims, stating that some millions of dollars have been taken from the people of the State in the last few years through the medium of bogus mining propositions. He gave a very interesting history of the alleged gold-bearing sands of the Adirondacks including the Glens Falls scheme, the Suttven Process, and the Lowville gold boom. In this category he included the platinum excitements which have from time to time been agitated by unscrupulous promoters, and which were all based on the alleged finding, about 30 years ago, of a platinum nugget at Plattsburg. He also touched upon fraudulent oil and gas companies. At

the close of Dr. Clarke's address it was moved that a resolution be prepared asking the New York Legislature to expedite the printing of the scientific papers now awaiting publication, as Reports of the New York State Museum. On a motion by Mr. R. M. Allen, a vote of thanks was extended to Dr. Clarke for his most interesting address.

Mr. Ashby showed and distributed to the members some small crystal mounts, appropriate to the display of loose crystals. The meeting was adjourned at 10 P.M.

HERBERT P. WHITLOCK, *Recording Secretary.*

PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL CLUB

Wagner Free Institute of Science, December 11, 1919

A stated meeting of The Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date, with the president, Dr. Burgin, in the chair. Twenty members and 28 visitors were present. Dr. Alfred C. Hawkins, Wilmington, Del., was nominated for active membership.

Dr. George P. Merrill, head curator of the department of geology, U. S. National Museum, addressed the society on "Meteorites." The phenomena of a fall, history of the study of meteorites, types, structure, mineralogical and chemical composition, and probable origin were discussed in detail. The fragmental character of most stones was noted, and the theories to account for chondrules were reviewed. Of especial interest was the description of the Cumberland Falls, Ky., stone which fell in April, 1919, whose characters showed that the stone had been part of a very large body. The address was illustrated with a large series of lantern slides of photographs of various meteorites and thin sections. After a discussion of the subject, the speaker was tendered a rising vote of thanks.

S. G. GORDON, *Secretary.*

NEW MINERALS

Ferrazite

T. H. LEE and L. F. DE MORAES: Ferrazite, a new associate of the diamond, *Am. J. Sci.* [4], 48 (5), 353-354, 1919.

NAME: After Dr. J. B. de A. Ferraz.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES: Color, dark yellowish white; sp. gr. 3.0-3.3; in favas (heavy-mineral pebbles). Under the microscope shows a peculiar structure.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: Analysis gave: H₂O 14.20, PbO 45.63, BaO 8.87, CaO tr., Al₂O₃ 3.48, P₂O₅ 26.24, SiO₂ 2.44, sum 100.86%. After deducting several per cent. of "kaolinite" and "wavellite," the balance has the composition: 3(Pb, Ba)O.2P₂O₅.8H₂O.

REMARKS: [This seems so obviously a mixture that it is hardly deserving of a special name; the day has long passed when a mineral species can be established by an analysis, no matter how accurate, on a massive specimen not fully studied optically or demonstrated otherwise to be homogeneous. ABSTRACTOR].

S. G. G.