

The Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft (German Mineralogical Society) held its seventh annual meeting (the first since 1913) on April 8-10 in Göttingen. About 20 papers were presented and several trips taken to mineral localities in the vicinity. The following officers were elected: President, R. Brauns (Bonn); Vice-presidents, A. Johnsen (Frankfurt), and O. Weigel (Marburg); Secretary, K. Spangenberg (Jena); Treasurer, Dr. Thost (of Gebr. Borntraeger, Berlin); Scientific Advisory Board, G. Aminoff (Lund, Sweden), F. Becke (Vienna), O. Mügge (Göttingen) and P. Niggli (Zurich Switzerland); Editor of the "Fortschritte," A. Johnsen. (*Centr. Min. Geol.* 1921, (No. 11, June 1), 349-350.)

BOOK REVIEW

THE NOMENCLATURE OF PETROLOGY. ARTHUR HOLMES. *New York*: D. Van Nostrand Co.; *London*: Thos. Murby & Co. 12mo, 234 pages. \$3.50.

This book comprises a 22-page discussion of the principles of petrographic nomenclature, a 220-page glossary in which definitions and references are given for a large number of rock names and various other petrographic terms, lists of French and of German terms and of Greek and Latin words used as the roots of rock names, and tables of rock-classification.

The discussion of the principles which have been followed and those which ought to be followed in the development of new names is very good, and should be read by everyone engaged in scientific work where there is a temptation to improve or add to existing nomenclature. Many tho not all of the made-to-order names of recent years, as those of Jevons, of Shand, of Cross-Iddings-Pirsson-Washington, and of Grabau, are rejected by the author. The list of terms seems otherwise to be unusually complete, and to cover about every technical term likely to appear in petrographic writings. The definitions are in most cases satisfying, altho certain of those drawn from chemistry might be improved; for instance, it may be questioned whether the petrologist would gain an adequate conception of *adsorption* from the definition "A term applied to the change in concentration of solutions and colloids where they come into contact with surfaces." American literature has been apparently covered quite fully, and the up-to-date-ness of the work is evidenced by the inclusion, under the heading *system*, of some 15 articles from the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. E. T. W.

NOTES AND NEWS

Corrections to list of Fellows—The name of E. Poitevin, included in the list of members of the Mineralogical Society of America in the February number (page 49) should be transferred to the list of Fellows, near top of page 47.

Mr. William F. Foshag has obtained leave of absence from the U. S. National Museum to accept a position as Assistant in Mineralogy in the University of California. His address in the list of fellows should accordingly be changed to: University of California, Berkeley, Cal.

On January 14, 1921, the Perkin Medal was awarded by the American Society of Chemical Industry to Dr. Willis R. Whitney, Director of the Research Laboratory of the General Electric Company at Schenectady, New York. Dr. Whitney is well known as one of the leaders in American chemistry, but it is not generally known that he gained his first interest in science as a result of the study of microscopic crystals. In his address, published in the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* (13 (2), 162, February, 1921), he tells how it happened:

"When I was about 15 years old, an English mill owner and one of the leading citizens of my home town [Jamestown, N. Y.] Mr. William C. J. Hall, assisted in establishing a Young Men's Christian Association. He had also long been interested in the microscope, and was a scientist such as we seldom find among business men today. He formed a free evening class for about half a dozen boys—all that could work together around the rotating table on which he placed his immense microscope. This was so arranged that specimen, instrument, and illuminating system did not have to be disturbed as they passed from one boy to another for observation. He did not merely show his specimens, of which he had thousands, but taught us how to prepare them in all the various ways now more or less common. They were all wonderful to me, and still are. My mother gave me some money which, combined with that of one of the other boys, purchased a small microtome; and my father gave me \$75 for a microscope. Under Mr. Hall's guidance I bought the instrument, with the understanding that whenever I wanted a better one, the old one would be taken back at the original price. I later procured one for \$250 which, thruout 35 years, I have used almost daily. One of the first experiments I tried with the microscope was to precipitate metallic silver from silver nitrate solution onto a speck of copper filings. Anyone who has watched these beautiful crystals grow knows that they are surpassingly wonderful. They constituted my first chemistry. It was those little bottles of salts and bugs in alcohol that led someone to call me a chemist, and it apparently determined my future work. . . ."

We have received a letter from a Belgian student who would like to get into correspondence with American students, and also, being impoverished as a result of the war, would greatly appreciate receiving duplicate mineral specimens or publications on mineralogy and related sciences which anyone may be able to send him. Address: Léon Michel, 18 Rue de la Madeleine, Liège, Belgium.

T. Fukai's "Tennensha," of Konosu, Saitama, Japan, state in their catalog: "Rough precious stones wanted, especially semi-precious stones in rough condition, for cash or exchange. Best prices given whenever we accepted samples." Correspondence and shipments should be addressed to: 28, Shichikencho, Shitaya, Tokyo, Japan.

The Colorado School of Mines has recently reopened the quarry on Table Mountain from which the famous zeolites formerly came. Quantities of good specimens are being obtained, which are offered in exchange to other institutions or to collectors.