

prisms, up to 2 cm. in diameter, capped by rhombohedrons. Several other quarries at Port Kennedy and vicinity were visited but with negative results.

JOHN FRANKENFIELD, *Secretary pro tem*

NOTES AND NEWS

Under the title "Research Problems in colloid chemistry," Professor Wilder D. Bancroft has recently published a list of 200 subjects in which investigation is needed (*J. Ind. Eng. Chem.* 13, 83, 153, 260 and 346, 1921; *Reprint & Circ. series, Nat. Res. Council*, No. 13, 1921.). The following are of special interest to mineralogists and crystallographers:

(52) Adsorption and abnormal density: in density determinations by weighing a solid in a solution, an error may be introduced by adsorption of the salt.

(57) Comparative study of adsorption by alumina, silica, kaolin, etc.: determination of relative adsorptions should help in working out the constitution of silicates.

(78) Crystallization of grape sugar as an adsorption phenomenon: the formation of needles in an acid solution and plates in an alkaline one should be studied from the adsorption standpoint.

(79) Crystallization of sodium chloride in cubes and octahedra: should be studied as a case of adsorption.

(90) Production of crystals: large crystals of insoluble substances can be obtained by diffusion of their constituents; more work should be done; it might even be possible to synthesize dolomite thus.

(134) Definition of lusters: "The people who write about gems speak of adamantine, vitreous, oily, waxy, resinous, pearly, silky, and metallic lusters, but there is no adequate definition of any of these terms. Somebody should work out definitions of these terms with reference to the optical properties involved. . . ."

(200) Action of ultraviolet light and of radium on gems; many examples are cited. Apparently the radium increases the dispersity of the colloidal particles, and ultraviolet light decreases it, or vice-versa. It should be possible to test this on synthetic materials, using perhaps borate glasses. Careful study should straighten out the question of the colors of gems.

E. T. W.

On the invitation of the Division of Geology and Geography of the National Research Council, the Council of the Mineralogical Society of America designated Dr. Edgar T. Wherry as the representative of the Society in that Division.

Contributors to THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST will be pleased to hear that arrangements have now been effected whereby they will be given twenty-five copies of the issue containing their article. If additional reprints are desired these can be purchased at the prices listed on the inside cover of this magazine.

The new periodical, *Bulletin Suisse de Minéralogie et Pétrographie*, which in spite of present difficulties was founded a year ago with a view of centralizing publications of all work relating to the mineralogy and petrography of Switzerland, has now completed its first volume (comprising 412 pages). The subscription price is 25.—Swiss francs per annum, payable to the editor, Dr. U. Grubenmann, Sonnegstr. 5, Zürich 6.