

## NOTES AND NEWS

A NEW OCCURRENCE OF SAPPHIRINE. ERNEST E. FAIRBANKS. *Somerville, Mass.*

A mineral pleochroic in green and blue tones was found in sillimanite-cordierite schist from Cortlandt, New York, in the collection of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which proved to be sapphirine. This mineral was identified by its refractive indices, which were very close to those found by Dr. Warren for the St. Urbain, Quebec mineral,<sup>1</sup> by its biaxial negative character and its pleochroism. The sapphirine is abundant in the specimen of schist studied. The extensive literature on the Cortlandt series was examined for references to this mineral and a statement by Rogers<sup>2</sup> gives the impression that he may have observed this mineral but have mistaken it for corundum. Rogers states, in his description of the sillimanite-cordierite schist that "Corundum, in any of the three varieties, may be present \* \* \* ." As I am not familiar with three varieties of corundum, I believe that the sapphirine may be included among these.

The sapphirine of this occurrence is a metamorphic mineral and it is unlikely that it is ever produced other than as a metamorphic product. Warren at first believed his sapphirine from St. Urbain to be of magmatic origin, but now considers that it is probably of metamorphic derivation.<sup>3</sup>

Dr. Oliver Bowles, mineral technologist of the Bureau of Mines, has been designated by the Secretary of the Interior as superintendent of the new mining experiment station of the bureau to be established at Rutgers College, New Brunswick, New Jersey. The new station will specialize in problems involved in the production and utilization of the various non-metallic minerals.

Dr. Richard B. Moore, chief chemist of the Bureau of Mines, has resigned and has been succeeded by Dr. Samuel C. Lind. Dr. Lind has for a number of years acted as superintendent of the Rare and Precious Metals Experiment Station of the bureau at Reno, Nevada.

## PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

## NEW YORK MINERALOGICAL CLUB

*Regular Monthly Meeting of May 16, 1923*

A regular meeting of the New York Mineralogical Club was held in the Morgan Memorial Hall of Minerals and Gems of the American Museum of Natural History on the evening of May 16th at 8 P. M. The Vice President, Mr. George E. Ashby, presided and there was an attendance of 18 members.

In discussing the subject of the Decoration Day Excursion the Secretary read a letter from Professor J. Volney Lewis relative to the Copper Mine locality at Griggstown, two miles north of Rocky Hill, N. J., and also a letter from Mr. O.

<sup>1</sup> Warren, C. H., The ilmenite rocks near St. Urbain, Quebec; a new occurrence of rutile and sapphirine. *Am. Jour. Sci.*, **33**, 274, 1912.

<sup>2</sup> Rogers, G. Sherburne, Geology of the Cortlandt series and its emery deposits. *Annals N. Y. Acad. Sci.*, **21**, 72, 1911.

<sup>3</sup> Personal communication.

Ivan Lee describing a visit to a limestone cave near Peapack, Somerset County, N. J. Mr. Manchester suggested the Bedford Feldspar Quarries as a possible objective for the Decoration Day Excursion of the Club. By a vote of the members present the Bedford Quarries locality was decided upon and the Secretary instructed to issue notices to this effect.

The Committee on Membership reported favorably on the following names:— Dr. C. A. H. Smith, 342 Madison Ave., New York City; and Dr. W. B. Short, 342 Madison Ave., New York City. On a motion by the chair the Secretary cast a ballot for these gentlemen who were declared elected. The Secretary then moved that the names of Professor A. Lacroix of the University of Paris, France, and Dr. Victor Goldschmidt of Heidelberg University, Germany, be added to the list of Honorary members of the Club. This motion was carried.

The Secretary read a letter from the Mayor's Committee on the Celebration of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Greater City of New York, requesting the Club to furnish a Representative on this committee. The President, Dr. George F. Kunz, was selected to represent the Club. The Secretary, as part of the evening's program, exhibited a number of new accessions to the Collection of the American Museum. Among these of special interest were several type specimens of calcite from Rhisnes and Chokier, Belgium, with the original labels in the handwriting and signed by Professor G. Césaró; some of these were also lettered on the crystal faces by the same investigator. In this series were also fine specimens of crystallized smithsonite and willemite from the original locality, Moresnet, Belgium, and destinezite from Argenteau, Belgium, having the labels signed by M. Destinez, after whom the variety was named. After an inspection of the collections installed in the Morgan Hall, the meeting adjourned.

HERBERT P. WHITLOCK, *Recording Secretary*

## BOOK REVIEW

GUIDE TO THE COLLECTION OF GEMSTONES IN THE MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY. W. F. P. McLintock. Second edition. 80 pages. 1923. Printed under the Authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office, London. Price 1 s net.

While a few of the old illustrations have been discarded or replaced by new drawings of a more suitable character, the second edition of this guide conforms in its main features to the first. It not only describes the specimens in the Museum but also devotes 33 pages to a general discussion, in non-technical terms, of the properties of gemstones, the methods of identifying them, the various styles of cutting and the processes employed for their artificial production and imitation.

As the treatment is general, aside from the references to cases where the specimens are exhibited, the pamphlet may be used to good advantage as a guide to any collection of gemstones or as a brief introduction to the study of gem minerals.

Copies may be obtained from E. Stanford, Ltd., 12, 13, and 14 Long Acre, London, W. C. 2; or from the Director General, Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

W. F. H.