

NOTE ON OCCURRENCE OF STRUVITE

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Professor Palache described a new mode of occurrence of struvite in a recent number of this journal (vol. 8, No. 4, April, 1923, pp. 72-73). Another occurrence of the same substance was brought to my notice a short time ago. Some small crystals (about 1 mm by 3 mm) were handed to me for the purpose of identification. These had been found in the lungs of a subject dissected by Miss Chance (Department of Human Anatomy, University Museum, Oxford).

The crystals were very poor, but a few measurements were carried out on the Goldschmidt Two-circle Goniometer. The results were communicated to Mr. T. V. Barker (Lecturer in Chemical Crystallography, Oxford) who identified the substance by the Fedorov method as struvite. A chemical test was subsequently carried out by Miss E. Ewbank (The University Chemical Laboratories, Oxford) and this agreed with the above determination.

The crystals showed two habits (see Figs. 1 and 2) similar to those illustrated in Dana. The forms are as follows: $b(010)$, $a(100)$, $m(110)$, $n(120)$, $s(011)$ and $p(101)$.

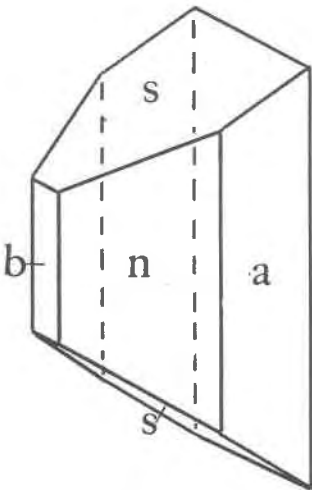


FIG. 1

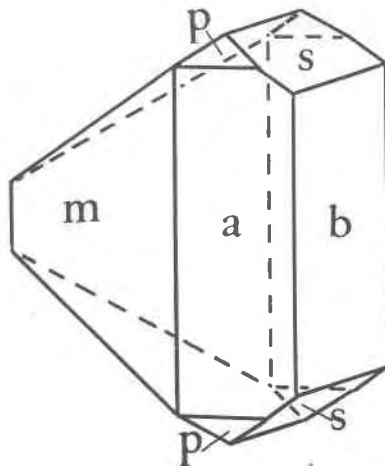


FIG. 2

| | MEASURED | CALCULATED |
|--------------------------|----------|------------|
| φ <i>m</i> (110) | 61°3½' | 61°16' |
| φ <i>n</i> (120) | 42°12' | 42°22' |
| ρ <i>s</i> (011) | 31°58' | 31°51' |
| ρ <i>p</i> (101) | 46°19' | 48°35' |

NOTES AND NEWS

Corrections. W. F. FOSHAG.

I wish to correct two errors that have appeared in my papers. In the description of priceite from Furnace Creek, on page 11 of vol. 9, the character of the mineral is given as optically positive. This should read negative. In my paper on plazolite, page 184, vol. 5, the index of refraction of plazolite is erroneously given as 1.710. The correct value is 1.675.

According to *Science News* platinum has been discovered in the Transvaal in quantities which are expected to be large enough to reduce substantially the price of this metal. The deposit is located in the Waterberg district, about 100 miles north of Johannesburg. The lodes are known to extend a distance of 10 to 15 miles. The yield is very variable. The ore averages about 9 oz. troy to the ton, although some samples have produced as high as 137 oz.

A recording micrometer for rock analysis was recently described by Chester K. Wentworth (*J. Geology*, 31, 228-232, 1923). This instrument, which can be attached to the stage of a microscope, will measure one to five component minerals, record and add the results in a single operation. An attempt is being made to make this convenient instrument available to those interested in quantitative petrography. If a *number of orders* are received its manufacture will be undertaken. The price will be approximately \$75 each. Those wishing to place an order are urged to do so *promptly* and address **Eberbach & Son Co., Ann Arbor, Michigan.**

Professor W. Vernadsky, who is at present in Paris, is desirous of obtaining reprints of articles by American mineralogists. His address is: 7 Rue Touiller, Paris V, France.

Dr. Wallace Goold Levison of Brooklyn, a prominent mineral collector, died on March 9th. He was corresponding secretary of the New York Mineralogical Club.

It is reported (*Science News*, March 21, p. XIV) that a large deposit of soapstone has been found on the shores and islands of Trap Lake in the Kenora district, about 200 miles east of Winnipeg. The deposit outcrops from 8 to 15 ft. above the surface and is estimated to contain more than 1,000,000 cubic feet of the material above the water level.

Mr. Ernest E. Fairbanks is at present employed as mineralogist at the Rare and Precious Metals Experiment Station, Reno, Nevada.