THE LOUIS P. GRATACAP MEMORIAL MEETING OF THE NEW YORK MINERALOGICAL CLUB.

Thus announced, the first meeting of the club for 1918 was held at the American Museum of Natural History on January 16. Dr. George F. Kunz, the President, was in the chair and 16 members and 17 guests present.

In the museum foyer adjoining the entrance to the meeting room a case had been provided in which was displayed a loan collection of books and pamphlets comprising most of those written and published by Mr. Gratacap during his active life.

When the meeting came to order the first part of the evening was devoted to a review of the life and work, and to personal reminiscences of the late L. P. Gratacap, who died suddenly on December 19, 1917. Mr. Gratacap and the President, Dr. Kunz, were among the associates who instituted the N. Y. Mineralogical Club in November, 1886, and organized it in June, 1887; Mr. Gratacap was at that time elected curator of its collections, an office he still held at the time of his death.

The President presented a detailed and extremely interesting resumé of the achievements of Mr. Gratacap, following which many of those present contributed expressions of regret at his demise and related interesting personal reminiscences of him.

Among the speakers were Mr. Gilman S. Stanton,[1] Mr. Lazard Cahn, Mr. George E. Ashby, Mr. Frederick I. Allen, Mr. David J. Atkins, Mr. Albert Operti, and the Secretary. Mr. Stanton, who attended Mr. Gratacap's funeral services as a representative of the Club, stated that his remains were interred in Old Trinity churchyard, midway the south side of the church, in the heart of the business section of New York City. Messrs. E. O. Hovey, D. J. Atkins, L. Cahn, and H. S. Williams were among other members of the Club present.

WALLACE GOOLD LEVISON, *Secretary*

HOW TO IDENTIFY BAUXITE.—A rather novel way to recognize bauxite—which is a colloidal aluminium hydroxide mineral—is described in "Bauxite and aluminium in 1916," in the *Mineral Resources of the United States*, by James M. Hill.

"Some measure of the relative quality of dried bauxite can be had by grinding a sample in an agate mortar for half a minute. A bauxite of good grade will be found hard to grind and will stick to the mortar with such tenacity that it will have to be scoured out; a poor bauxite or bauxite-clay will grind much more easily and will stick very little if at all; and clay or kaolin grinds with ease and does not stick to the mortar. Similar results are found if the sample is rubbed on glass; the glass will not be scratched by even high-grade bauxite."

We have confirmed the usefulness of this simple test. The streak made by drawing a piece of bauxite across a sheet of glass is surprisingly difficult to erase, while clays of similar aspect yield a powdery line which can be practically all blown away.

CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED.—We hope that our readers will send in notes similar to the preceding one occasionally. We have on hand plenty of manuscript of long articles, enough, in fact, to last until next September; but more brief notes, as well as contributions to the "Famous mineral localities" series, are greatly desired. If you have made any new finds, discoveries, observations, etc., of general interest, let us know about them. Even if you are unable to put the matter into finished form, send an outline anyway, and we will see that it is properly arranged for publication. THE EDITORS.

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[1] Mr. Stanton's article is published in full in this number. Other biographies of Mr. Gratacap will be found in the *Am. Mus. J.*, April, 1918, and *City College Quart.*, **14**, 1, March, 1918.