from the lower quarries (Mc Kennon) and drew attention to the fact that the minerals from these quarries were darker in color than those from the Mercer Quarries. Mr. Grenzig showed some unusual occurrences of datolite from Great Notch, and apophyllite from Mercer's quarry, West Paterson. He also exhibited unusual groupings of prehnite from West Paterson, quartz pseudomorphs after glauberite, apophyllite and calcite from Mercer's Quarry. Mr. Whitlock exhibited 5 undescribed examples of parallel grouping of calcite from the Bergen Archways and Paterson. Captain Miller showed a number of microscopic mounts of Paterson minerals.

Miss Luther exhibited agate from Upper Montclair, also stilbite, apophyllite and prehnite. Mr. Oppenheimer at the request of the President showed a geode from Paterson containing nodular rosettes of prehnite which were entirely detached but ot the same grouping as the lining of the geode. Mr. R. M. Allen showed prehnite coated with malachite, also crystallized prehnite, a color variation in chabazite and a spherical aggregate of thompsonite. Mr. Broadwell showed red quartz and green datolite from West Paterson. Mr. F. 1. Allen drew attention to the work of Professor Moses on the pseudomorphic cavities from Upper Montclair. Mr. Manchester exhibited a large and varied series of interesting specimens including pectolite from the upper quarries of Paterson and pseudomorphic casts of anhydrite. He recalled the collecting at the Erie Cut and spoke of the origin of the loose datolite crystals characteristic of this occurrence. Dr. Kunz spoke of the early days of collecting in the New Jersey zeolite localities with many recollections and anecdotes relating to the collectors who made these occurrences famous.

HERBERT P. WHITLOCK,
Recording Secretary

THE PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Wagner Free Institute of Science, March 11, 1920

A stated meeting of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date with the president, Dr. Burgin, in the chair. Nineteen members and five visitors were present.

Messrs. R. Weckerly, James Rahill, and E. O. C. Acker, upon favorable recommendation of the council, were elected to active membership.

Mr. John Rothermel addressed the society on "The goldfields of Nova Scotia." The geology of the Oldham district was described, and an account given of the occurrence of gold veins, their mineralogy, and possible origin.

SAMUEL G. GORDON, *Secretary*

NOTES AND NEWS

Mr. Charles K. Cabeen, instructor in geology at Syracuse University, has been appointed State Mineralogist of New York and Professor of Mineralogy in Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Dr. Arthur L. Day has resumed his former position as Director of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

A New Crystal System Name.—For the crystal system possessing three axes of different lengths, lying at right angles, the terms rhombic and orthorhombic are both frequently used. In a recent number of the *Journal of*

Industrial and Engineering Chemistry (February, 1920, page 166), the same system is referred to as "*o*-rhombic." In order that this shall not be suspected as being a bit of Irish propaganda, we may explain that in organic chemical compounds the prefix *ortho* is commonly abbreviated to "*o*"; and the use of the same abbreviation here was evidently an oversight.

The mineral collection of the painter Otto Vautier, of Geneva, Switzerland, recently deceased, is offered for sale. It comprizes about 1,200 specimens, including many choice and rare ones, especially from old European localities. It is valued at about 12,000 francs. Correspondence should be addressed to Dr. E. Joukowsky, Assistant in the Museum d'histoire naturelle, Bastions, Geneva, Switzerland.

NEW MINERALS

Bismutoplagionite

EARL V. SHANNON: Bismutoplagionite, a new mineral. *Am. J. Sci.* [4], **49** (3), 166–168, 1920.

NAME: from its composition, a plagionite with Sb replaced by Bi.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES: Color, bluish lead gray; streak: dull dark brownish gray. Luster: metallic. Opaque. Form: small indistinctly fibrous masses with an ill-defined cleavage parallel to the elongation. H. = 2.8. Sp.gr. 5.35.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: Composition, $5PbS.4Bi_2S_3$; a small proportion of Bi replaced by Sb.

Analysis showed: insoluble 18.88, PbS 30.21, As_2S_3 tr., CuS tr., Ag_2S tr., FeS_2 1.25, Sb_2S_3 3.37, Bi_2S_3 45.62, sum 99.33 per cent.

B.B. fuses to a brittle globule on charcoal, and yields a coating which is yellow near the assay and white on the outer portion. With sodium carbonate the mineral is reduced to a metallic button. In closed tube yields a copious sublimate of S, and in the open tube gives abundant SO_2.

OCCURRENCE: Found near Wickes, Jefferson County, Montana, with pyrite, galena, tetrahedrite, chalcopyrite and quartz. S. G. GORDON

Brannerite

FRANK L. HESS and ROGER C. WELLS: Brannerite, a new uranium mineral. *J. Frank. Inst.*, **189** (2), 225–237, 1920.

NAME: After Dr. John C. Branner.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES: Color, brilliant black, with a brownish yellow coating due to weathering. Streak: dark greenish brown. Opaque. Form: grains and rough prismatic crystals, probably paramorphs after a tetragonal or orthorhombic form. Fracture conchoidal. Isotropic; n_{Li} 2.26 ± 0.02; n_{Na} 2.30 ± 0.02 (Larsen). H = 4.5. Sp.gr. = 4.50–5.43. Radio-active, the radio activity increasing with the Sp. Gr.

COMPOSITION: A hydrated metatitanate of various bases: (Ca, Fe, UO, TiO) TiO_3 + (Th, Zr, UO) TiO_3 + Yt_2 $(TiO_3)_3$ + H_2O.

An analysis by Wells gave: SiO_2 0.6, TiO_2 39.0, FeO 2.9, CaO 2.9, UO_2 10.3, UO_3 33.5, ThO_2 4.1, Ce_2O_3 none, Y_2O_3 etc. 3.9, ZrO_2 0.2, PbO 0.2, BaO 0.3, SrO 0.1, H_2O 2.0, CO_2 0.2, Fe_2O_3, Al_2O_3, P_2O_5 tr., sum 100.2%. The high uranium content is noteworthy. The mineral appears to be a metatitanate, essentially (UO, TiO, UO_2) TiO_3 similar to delorenzite but differing from it in the high UO_3 content.

OCCURRENCE: Found in gold placers near granites cut by pegmatite, near the head of Kelly Gulch, Stanley Basin, central Idaho. S. G. GORDON