

## MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

The second meeting of the Washington Mineralogical Society was held as a field party on April 28, 1923. Several mineral localities near Leesburg, Virginia were visited. Ten members, W. S. Burbank, W. F. Foshag, F. L. Hess, E. S. Larsen, C. L. Ross, E. Samson, W. T. Schaller, E. V. Shannon, E. T. Wherry and R. W. G. Wyckhoff, took part. At a quarry in Leesburg a vein of datolite cut the limestone conglomerate of the Newark formation. Crystallized specimens of datolite associated with calcite and barite and an unidentified mineral were obtained together with specimens of xonotlite from the adjoining limestone. At Goose Creek the quarry is cut by a diabase sill. Shear planes carry prehnite, apophyllite, laumontite and calcite. Numerous diabase pegmatites of varying types occur and brought forth much discussion from the members of the society. They are largely plagioclase feldspar with diallage, often in plumose groups several inches long. Mirolitic cavities are abundant in the lighter colored pegmatites and carry albite, byssolite, green pyroxene, epidote and titanite. The material collected is now under investigation by Mr. E. V. Shannon of the National Museum.

W. F. FOSHAG, *Secretary.*

## NOTES AND NEWS

NOTES ON MASSACHUSETTS MINERALS. ERNEST E. FAIRBANKS, *Harvard University.*

**WOLLASTONITE.** The "nephrite"<sup>1</sup> from the old limestone quarries of Stoneham proved to be a very pure wollastonite sometimes stained by epidote. The green stained fibrous material is the only mineral present which could have been mistaken for nephrite.

**SHERIDANITE.** A white chlorite occurs as an alteration product of diallage in a coarse grained segregation in the norite of Loon Hill, Dracut. This chlorite was found to be optically positive with 2V very small and  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  approximately 1.565.

**POLYDYMITE.** This nickel mineral occurs replacing the pentlandite in the ore from the Old Nickel Mine, Dracut. The microchemical tests made on polished sections of this mineral agree very well with those given by Davy and Farnham.<sup>2</sup>

**PREHNITE** and other zeolites occur in the contact zone between the Merrimac quartzite and norite, near the Nickel Mine in Dracut.

**GLAUCOPHANE** occurs as the chief constituent of a glaucophane-oligoclase schist along the Merrimac River in Lowell. The field relations and microscopic character are such as to leave little doubt to the writer of the igneous origin of the schist.

**ANORTHOCLASE** occurs as phenocrysts measuring as much as 2 cm. x 1 cm. in an alkali syenite porphyry near the water tower at Arlington Heights. An alteration product of hedenbergite in a quartz alkali syenite from Wakefield, believed to be ferroanthophyllite, was observed but was not positively identified.

<sup>1</sup> Dana, E. S., *The system of mineralogy of James Dwight Dana.* Sixth edition (*New York* 1920) p. 1059.

<sup>2</sup> *Microscopic examination of the ore minerals* (*New York* 1920) p. 57.