

REPORTS AND PROCEEDINGS.

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY.

20th January.

K. Yardley: An X-ray examination of calcium formate. The orthorhombic bipyramidal unit cell contains eight asymmetric molecules. The dimensions are $a = 10.19 \text{ \AA}$, $b = 13.41 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 6.27 \text{ \AA}$. The structure is founded on the Bravais lattice Γ_o and belongs to the space group Q_h^5 .

John Parry and Dr. F. E. Wright: Afwillite, a new hydrous calcium silicate from Dutoitspan mine, Kimberley, South Africa. This mineral was found by Mr. A. F. Williams as large water-clear crystals. These are monoclinic. Analyses give the formula $3\text{CaO} \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ or $2\text{H}_2\text{CaSiO}_4 \cdot \text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$. It has a slight alkaline reaction and is completely decomposed by dilute hydrochloric acid. Optical and crystallographic data are given in detail.

Professor P. N. Chirvinsky: Tyuyamunite from the Tyuyamuyun radium mine in Fergana. A review is given of the literature on the copper, vanadium, and uranium ores at this locality. The mineral tyuyamunite, $\text{CaO} \cdot 2\text{UO}_3 \cdot \text{V}_2\text{O}_5 \cdot m\text{H}_2\text{O}$, is related to carnotite, having calcium in place of potassium. The microscopical characters of the minute orthorhombic crystals are described.

Dr. L. J. Spencer: International agreement in mineralogical and crystallographical nomenclature. With a small amount of "give and take" in different countries much greater uniformity could be attained for mineral names. For international purposes the correct spelling of the printed word is of more importance than the correct pronunciation. There is no necessity to provide well-established mineral names with the termination *ite*. The Millerian notation for crystal planes is the best for international use. The principal optical directions are conveniently given by α , β , γ , corresponding with the three principal indices of refraction.

OBITUARY.**David Woolacott.**

Geology in the North-East of England has suffered a serious loss by the untimely death, on 4th August last, of Dr. David Woolacott, at the early age of 52. Born in Sunderland on 1st July, 1872, and losing his father only one year later, he was in due course enabled by his mother's foresight and devotion to proceed to Armstrong College, where he studied geology under Lebour, and graduated in 1895. After a brief period of school teaching he returned to his own College as demonstrator, and became successively Lecturer and Reader in Geology. He was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society in 1897 and in 1920 was awarded the Murchison Fund in recognition of upwards of twenty years' assiduous geological work.

Woolacott was a true Northcountryman in his devotion to his native county, and, while he travelled widely in pursuit of geological knowledge, his original work was almost wholly given to the geological problems of Northumberland and Durham, concerning which he published upwards of twenty original papers. His attention was at first largely devoted to the Pleistocene geology of the area, and a large mass of work was collected into the paper on the "Superficial Deposits and pre-Glacial Valleys of the Northumberland and Durham Coalfield" (*Q.J.G.S.*, 1905), in which the leading features of the pre-Glacial surface was established. He studied with unflagging zeal every aspect of the local geology, but he will be remembered among his fellow-workers especially for his insistence on the importance of earth-movement as a leading factor in the production of the structural features of the rocks of the district, and in particular of the remarkable brecciation of the Magnesian Limestone. Some geologists will hesitate in accepting all the conclusions, but all will agree in their gratitude for the way in which the amazing structure of the rocks was demonstrated to them.

Fortunately, Dr. Woolacott published quite recently in this Magazine two papers ("The Magnesian Limestone of Durham," *GEOL. MAG.*, Vol. LVI, 1919, pp. 452, 485; and "The Interglacial Problem and the Glacial and Pre-glacial Sequence in Northumberland and Durham," *GEOL. MAG.*, Vol. LVIII, 1921, pp. 21, 60), in which he summarized his views on two of the main themes which had engaged his attention. It had been his intention to continue a series of such papers, which together would have constituted a complete account of the local geology, with discussions of its wider significance. Only those who had personal knowledge of the fund of information he had gathered can appreciate the loss which the cutting short of this project entails.

Woolacott was a true enthusiast, with the deepest love for his subject, and so, like all enthusiasts, a good teacher. He is remembered with affection alike by his colleagues and by the many students who passed through his hands.

G. H.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. WARREN'S VIEWS ON PLEISTOCENE CLASSIFICATIONS.

The *raison d'être* for Mr. Warren's Presidential Address on "Pleistocene Classifications" delivered recently to the Geologists' Association (*Proc. Geol. Assoc.*, 1924, part iv), would appear to be revealed in the following statement (p. 265): "On the present occasion I propose to invert the usual order, and to take the human culture stages of France as the basis of the time scale, and to refer the ice ages to them instead of vice versa. This is being done as an experiment, in order to see how matters will work out on this basis."