

defects we have mentioned are remediable for the past and preventable in the future. The discoveries of Leeuwenhoek are of such importance as to exact the highest standard of performance on the part of those who seek to do him honour. In the efflorescence of the arts and sciences which

occurred in Holland in the seventeenth century, Leeuwenhoek occupies a commanding place, and therefore any commemorative edition of his writings should reflect the universal reverence in which the genius of this remarkable man is held.

F. J. COLE.

MINERAL NAMES

Descriptive List of the New Minerals, 1892-1938

Containing all New Mineral Names not mentioned in Dana's "System of Mineralogy", sixth edition, 1892. Compiled by George Letchworth English. Pp. vii + 258. (New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1939.) 18s.

MR. GEORGE L. ENGLISH, well known to mineralogists all over the world from his long connexion with the firm of Ward's Natural Science Establishment at Rochester in New York State, has compiled from various sources an alphabetical list, with definitions, of all new mineral names not included in the sixth edition of Dana's "System of Mineralogy" published in 1892.

Beginning in 1897, the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain has published fourteen lists of new mineral names, compiled by Dr. L. J. Spencer and printed at the end of each volume of the *Mineralogical Magazine*. In each list the names were arranged alphabetically, but as the fourteen lists contain more than 2,100 names, it will be a great convenience now to have all the names available in one volume.

For several years the Mineralogical Society of America has had a Committee on Nomenclature at work. The final report of this Committee has recently been adopted by the Society, and Mr. English has been able to incorporate in his list the changes in names proposed. These changes fall under two headings: (1) those merely involving a different spelling from that adopted by E. S. Dana in the sixth edition of the "System of Mineralogy"; and (2) those calling for a definite choice between two alternatives both in common use among American and British mineralogists. It is satisfactory to note that a certain measure of agreement was reached between the American Committee and a committee appointed by the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain at a joint discussion which took place in Washington in 1933, and the only names of common minerals for which the spellings preferred by the United States mineralogists are not likely to be taken into general use here are: 'sulfur' for 'sulphur',

'hematite' for 'hæmatite', and perhaps 'feldspar' for 'felspar'.

The spellings 'feldspar' and 'felspar' have both been in general use in American and British mineralogical and geological books for nearly a century and a half. The spelling 'felspar' was introduced in 1794 by R. Kirwan in the second edition of his "Elements of Mineralogy". In his first edition he had spelt it "feltspar" and "felt spar", and he explained his change of spelling in a footnote: "This name seems to me derived from *fels* a rock; it being commonly found in granites, and not from *feld*, a field; and hence I write it thus, felspar." In this assumption Kirwan was wrong. The name was not German, but Swedish. It was first introduced by D. Tilas in 1740 in the first volume of the *Transactions of the Swedish Academy of Sciences*. It seems that Tilas wrote "feldtspat" in his manuscript, but in the printed paper the name appears with no fewer than four different spellings on a single page: "feldt spat", "feltspat", "fältspat" and "feldtspat". Linnæus used "fältspat" in 1748 and so did Cronstedt in 1758. Contemporary German works gave both "Feldspat" and "Feldspath", and in English we find "field-spar" (1772), "feltspar" (Kirwan 1784), "feldspar" (Hutton 1785), "fieldspath" (Beddoes 1791) and "feldspat" (Wedgwood 1792).

Tilas had published no explanation of the derivation of his name, but it is believed to refer to the abundance of the mineral in the tilled fields in the rapakivi granite district of south-western Finland, and its derivation from the Swedish "feldt" or "fält" (= field) is undoubted. J. D. Dana in his famous "System of Mineralogy" adopted the spelling "feldspar" from the start (1837) and this spelling has remained in general use in the United States, while Kirwan's spelling "felspar" was adhered to in Great Britain. In the last few years, since the discussions with the American Nomenclature Committee, many mineralogists in Great Britain have adopted the spelling "feldspar", but this has not been accepted by the leading mineralogical and geological periodicals. Fortunately, whichever spelling is used, no confusion in meaning will arise.