besides can be made out of the *physical* mixture of red and green and blue. That fact has been put beyond doubt, once for all, by the exceedingly exact measurements of Professor König, made by means of an instrument of very ingenious construction (and so expensive that it has been duplicated for hardly any other laboratories). There is not a psychologist who denies this physical fact, and for the physicist to constantly re-affirm it, and to say that it has received fresh proof (see the report of the last meeting of the scientific societies in New York) is much the same as if he should valiantly affirm that one side of a shield is of silver by way of opposition to those who say that the other side is of gold. What the psychologist denies is not that gray results when blue and yellow are mixed upon the color wheel—he has admitted that long ago, and it will be found as an elementary statement in every text-book of psychology. But he refuses to admit, nevertheless, that white is an even red-green-blue *sensation* in the same sense in which purple is an even red-blue sensation. It is here that the adherents of the Young–Helmholtz theory should attack him.

C. Ladd Franklin.

A LARGE CRYSTAL OF SPODUMENE.

To the Editor of Science: There has recently appeared in some scientific journals a notice of a crystal of spodumene stated to be about twenty-nine feet long, and to be the largest known. It may be of interest to your readers to learn that a much larger crystal has been observed. In the year 1885 while studying the tin ore or cassiterite localities of the Black Hills of Dakota I saw and measured, in the Etta tin mine near Harney's Peak, a spodumene crystal thirty-eight feet and six inches in length and thirty-two inches in thickness. This thirty-eight and a half foot crystal was almost perfect, and was situated within a few yards of the surface. Owing to its size and the difficulties of transportation at that time, the railway being one hundred and thirty miles distant, I made no attempt to have the crystal removed. I, however, collected other crystals of spodumene in the vicinity, and some of these measured from two to six feet in length. Subsequently, in a public lecture upon the Black Hills, given in the University of North Dakota in February, 1886, I announced the discovery of the aforesaid gigantic crystal; but, because of the pressure of teaching and other numerous duties, that discovery has not been reported in the regular scientific journals.

For the benefit of some readers it may perhaps be well to state that spodumene is a grayish-white or pink mineral of considerable hardness, being nearly as hard as quartz, and that it consists of silica, alumina and lithium.

Henry Montgomery.

Trinity University, Toronto,
July 17, 1900.

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*UNITS AT THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONGRESS.**

At the suggestion of Professor Hospitalier, Section I. of the Congress agreed that the following should be the members of the Commission on Units: Messrs. Ayrton (Great Britain), De Chatelain (Russia), Dorn (Germany), De Fodor (Hungary), Eric Gérard (Belgium), Hospitalier (France), Lombardi (Italy), Kennelly (United States); and at the first meeting of the Commission, on August 21st, which was attended also by Professor F. Kohlrausch and Sir W. Preece—whose names had been added to the list of the government delegates for Germany and England—a report presented to the Congress by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers was taken into consideration. This report had been drawn up for that Institute by a committee appointed for this purpose, and it contained the following resolutions:

(1) We consider that it is necessary to give names to the absolute units in the electromagnetic and electrostatic systems, as well as convenient prefixes to designate the decimal multiples and submultiples of these units in addition to those already in use.

(2) The International Congress of Electricians, which will take place this year in Paris, should be invited to choose the names and the prefixes.

(3) A great advantage would be gained by a rationalization of the electric and magnetic

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