SHORTER ARTICLES.

A NEW OCCURRENCE OF CASSITERITE IN ALASKA.*

DURING the past season while making a hasty reconnaissance of the York gold field of Alaska, my attention was called to some auriferous gravels which carry a large percentage of stream tin. This stream tin is found in considerable quantities on Buhner Creek, which enters the Anâkovik River from the west about three miles from Behring Sea. The occurrence is perhaps best located by stating that it lies some ten miles east of Cape Prince of Wales and hence very near the northwestern extremity of the continent. On Buhner Creek some two to three feet of gravel overlie the bed rock which consists of arenaceous schists which are often graphitic, together with some graphitic slates. The bed rock is much jointed, the schists being broken up into pencil-shaped fragments. They strike nearly at right angles to the course of the stream and offer natural riffles for the concentration of heavier material. A hasty reconnaissance of the drainage basin of this stream, which includes not more than a square mile of area, showed the same series of rocks throughout its extent. At a few localities some deeply weathered dark green intrusives were found, which, on examination by the microscope, were found to consist almost entirely of secondary minerals. In some cases, however, a little plagioclase was still unaltered and a suggestion of ophitic structure remained, so that these are probably of a diabase character. The slates and schists are everywhere penetrated by small veins consisting usually of quartz with some calcite and frequently carrying pyrite and sometimes gold. These veins are very irregular, often widening out to form blebs and again contracting so as not to be easily traceable.

The stream tin is concentrated on the bed rock with other heavy minerals and was found by the miners in the sluice boxes. A sample of the concentrate in one of the sluice boxes was examined by Mr. Arthur J. Collier and yielded the following minerals: cassiterite, magnetite, ilmenite, limonite, pyrite, fluorite, garnets and gold. The determination of percentage by weight was as follows: ninety-five per cent. tin-stone, five per cent. magnetite; other minerals five per cent. The cassiterite occurs in grains and pebbles, from those microscopic in size to those half an inch in diameter; they have sub-rounded and rounded forms. In some cases there is a suggestion of pyramidal and prismatic crystal forms. The cassiterite varies from a light brown color to a lustrous black.

A second locality of this mineral was found on the Anakovik River half a mile below the mouth of Buhner Creek. Here the cassiterite is also found with the concentrates from the sluice boxes of miners. I observed one specimen from this locality which was some two inches in diameter.

During the hasty reconnaissance no acid intrusives nor pegmatite veins were found in the drainage basin. The nearest known granitic rocks are in the biotite granite mass which forms the promontory of the Cape Prince of Wales. It is hoped during the coming season that more detailed work in this region will throw further light on these interesting deposits.

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NOTES ON PARASITES — 56: ECHINOSTOMUM BURSICOLA LOOSS AND E. CLOACINUM BRAUN, FROM A NOMENCLATURAL STANDPOINT.

PROFESSOR MAX BRAUN * has recently proposed the name *Echinostomum cloacinum* as a substitute for *Distomum bursicola* Creplin, upon placing this species in the genus *Echinostoma*. Braun's reason for changing the specific name is that there is already an *Echinostomum bursicola* Looss, 1899, and he assumes that this invalidates the specific name *bursicola* Creplin, 1837.

In this decision, Braun has fallen into error. It is not *bursicola* 1899 which invalidates *bursicola* 1837, but the latter invalidates the former. Hence *E. cloacinum* Braun, 1901, must fall as a

* 1901.—Ueber einige Trematoden der Creplins'chen Helminthensammlung. Cent. f. Bakt. Paras. u. Infek., XXIX., 1 Abt., No. 6, Feb. 25, 258–260.