

(transparent pink crystals, one measuring  $110 \times 75 \times 65$  mm. and weighing 850 grams), lepidolite, pink andalusite, muscovite, orthoclase and quartz.

The field is certainly a very interesting one and is well worth further study. Many of the minerals occur in good crystals having rich combinations of forms, and the color of some of the specimens suggests interesting chemical possibilities. It is probable that with further exploration the list of minerals will be considerably increased.

WALDEMAR T. SCHALLER.

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

#### A NOTE ON RHIZOCTONIA.

THE bean crop in the vicinity of St. Louis was severely injured this year in many instances by *Rhizoctonia*, sp. which not only attacked the stems and larger roots of the plants, but also produced brown, sunken areas on the surface of the pods, penetrating the latter and discoloring the seeds. An examination of a number of seeds whose surface was discolored disclosed the fact that the mycelium of the fungus had established itself in the seed coat and in many instances had formed minute sclerotia there without rotting the seed or even penetrating the cotyledons. Pure cultures of *Rhizoctonia* were easily obtained from a number of mature discolored beans which had been carefully removed from diseased pods. The presence of the fungus does not prevent the germination of the seed, as was proved by a test. From this it follows that a very common means of disseminating *Rhizoctonia* on the bean is through diseased seed, and that seedsmen should be careful not to send out discolored beans.

G. G. HEDGCOCK.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY LABORATORY,  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

#### QUOTATIONS.

##### THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION.

It is worth pointing out that the almost inevitable outcome of the present policy will be a centralization of a very objectionable kind. If the activities of the Carnegie Institution were to be wholly confined to aiding individ-

uals here and there, that end could have been best attained by dividing the endowment among the leading institutions of learning, under such restrictions as might have been necessary. Every such organization could then have determined for itself, better than a central one at Washington, what the needs of its professors were, and what might be the importance of their work. It could have established branch stations at least as well as can the Washington institution. It could have sought out the exceptional man with even better chances of finding him, because its field of knowledge would have been wider than that of any central authority. Each could, for itself, have selected the best research-assistant to be found.

Now, instead of this result, we actually have a central authority passing judgment upon the relative importance of the work being done at all the institutions of learning from which applications may come, and aiding them, or refusing aid, according to their judgment. One very probable outcome of this has not been sufficiently considered. It must tend, to a greater or less extent, to diminish the spirit of individual effort, just as gifts are apt to do in many other walks of life. This effect will be intensified by a very obvious and reasonable provision announced by the institution as governing its action. It does not propose to undertake anything that is being well done by other agencies. It would, of course, be superfluous to assist a professor in cases where the patrons of his own institution could be induced to do so. The latter will naturally not be very liberal in giving their funds if the Carnegie Institution can be successfully appealed to. If the appeal is a failure, that failure will be a reason against the project in the mind of a possible donor. The dilemma will be that of Omar: If the Carnegie Institution can be induced to support your work, our aid is not needed; if it can not be so induced, the object is not worthy of our support. Of course, it is not claimed that this consideration will be universal, or will be operative immediately and in all cases. But to suppose that it will never be operative in any degree is contrary to every principle of human nature.