

THE HANCOCK MINERAL COLLECTION

As somewhat exaggerated accounts of this collection appeared in the newspapers at the time of its purchase for the Harvard Mineralogical Museum a brief description is opportune.

Elwood P. Hancock who died last December in Burlington, N. J., in his eighty-second year, was a landscape artist by profession and also carved in wood as a pastime; he began to collect minerals when nineteen years old and continued throughout his life. To this pursuit he brought the artist's eye and skilled manipulation with fine tools as well as a wonderful "flair" for fine specimens even when the crystals were buried in the matrix, and acquired a keen acquaintance with minerals. For many years he visited Franklin Furnace twice yearly, and made trips to Paterson, Nova Scotia, Virginia, North Carolina and other famous American mineral localities, and the choice specimens he brought back were worked out with incredible skill to show their beauty, with hardly a suspicion that tools had been used to clear away the matrix.

The collection contains about 1,600 specimens of generally the first quality, usually matrix specimens showing good crystals. The standard European and other non-American localities are fairly represented with excellent and well-chosen material but the greater interest is in the superb crystals from American localities such as Franklin Furnace, Tilly Foster mine, Amelia Court House, Va., and others where Mr. Hancock collected on the spot and then worked out his material with incredible skill and patience.

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

THE organization of this society, which was formed at a meeting held in Cincinnati, October 23, 1916, has been noted in *SCIENCE*. The *New York Medical Journal* states that a constitution was adopted stating that the objects of the new organization are to increase the efficiency of its members through the discussion of public health problems, to promote the efficiency of public health administration,

to raise the standards of public health practice, and to stimulate original work in public health science. Qualifications for membership are based upon achievements as public health workers and scholarship in public health science. There are two classes of members: Active members, who must be, at the time of election, not less than thirty years of age and actively engaged in public health work, and honorary members who are chosen in recognition of unusual ability or length of service in public health work. When the membership has reached fifty, not more than five new members shall be added in any one year, in addition to filling vacancies. At the meetings of the organization it is not proposed to read scientific papers, but to devote the time to the open discussion of the reports of committees. During the year the various committees will be called upon to prepare reports on such public health problems as are suggested by the membership, and their reports will be placed in the hands of the members several weeks in advance of the annual meeting so that the members may come to the meetings prepared to discuss the same intelligently. It is planned to publish from time to time the opinions which the membership of this academy may reach as the result of their deliberations on the problems presented to them. The members of the organization for the first year are: Dr. Carl L. Alsberg, Dr. John F. Anderson, Dr. Hermann M. Biggs, Dr. Rupert Blue, Dr. Charles V. Chapin, Dr. H. W. Conn, Dr. Haven Emerson, Dr. W. A. Evans, Dr. Irving Fisher, Dr. Lee K. Frankel, Dr. Allen W. Freeman, Dr. Wade H. Frost, Dr. George W. Fuller, Dr. John S. Fulton, Dr. Joseph Goldberger, Dr. S. S. Goldwater, Dr. William C. Gorgas, Dr. Selskar M. Gunn, Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman, Dr. J. N. Hurty, Dr. E. O. Jordan, Dr. J. W. Kerr, Dr. J. J. Kinyoun, Dr. J. H. Landis, Dr. E. C. Levy, Dr. L. L. Lumsden, Dr. G. W. McCoy, Dr. A. J. McLaughlin, Dr. Joseph S. Neff, Dr. Charles E. North, Dr. William H. Park, Dr. Earle B. Phelps, Dr. W. S. Rankin, Dr. M. P. Ravenel, Dr. M. J. Rosenau, Dr. William T. Sedgwick, Dr. W. F. Snow, Dr. C. W. Stiles,