

A RARE CRYSTAL HABIT FOR GYPSUM

IN November, 1931, the writer, in company with Professors S. B. Talmage and Evan Just, of the New Mexico School of Mines, and S. G. Lasky, of the U. S. Geological Survey, made a visit to the White Sands in Dona Ana County, New Mexico. To the west of the main body of the sands and east of the San Andres Range, in the heart of the Tularosa Desert, lies a typical, ephemeral, desert soda lake, Lake Lucero. This shallow lake and its surrounding alkali flat are fed at certain times of the year by a small, sluggish stream from the north. Along the banks of this stream, in T. 18 S., R. 5 E., three or four miles northeast of the old Eddy Soda Prospect, were found a number of gypsum crystals, the habit of which is believed to be rare, if not unique.

The writer made some study of the crystals without being able to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion concerning their habit. Some of the crystals were then

sent to Dr. A. J. Walcott, of Northwestern University, who reported the habit to be that of a negative hemipyramid and a basal pinacoid, the latter showing a vicinal formation.

The crystals are tabular and have their greatest dimension along the *b* crystallographic axis. Some of the surfaces, particularly the faces of the basal pinacoid, are much corroded, and the edges in some cases are rounded. Twinning appears to be uncommon, but one contact twin was found showing the twinning plane along the orthopinacoid.

As mentioned above, this habit appears to be rare or unique. At least it was a new habit to the members of this party and to Dr. Walcott. If other mineralogists are familiar with gypsum crystals of this type, the writer will appreciate learning of them.

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NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF MINES

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AT ATLANTIC CITY

A DISTINCTLY varied program will be presented in the social sciences at Atlantic City. Program plans in anthropology, psychology, history, economics, sociology and education are now complete.

On Tuesday evening, December 27, Professor Franz Boas, of Columbia University, retiring president of the association, will deliver a general address on "The Aims of Anthropological Research." On Wednesday evening, Dr. W. K. Gregory, American Museum of Natural History, retiring vice-president for Section H (Anthropology) will speak on "The New Anthropogeny: Twenty-five Stages of Vertebrate Evolution from Silurian Chordate to Man." Sessions for the reading of papers on anthropological research will be held, beginning Wednesday and extending through Friday, December 30. Professor J. Alden Mason, of the University of Pennsylvania, is expected to present some interesting new material on the relations between the Indian cultures of Mexico and the Mississippi Valley. Dr. J. Spinden, of the Brooklyn Museum, will exhibit some pre-Columbian manuscripts of Southern Mexico, and Dr. Aleš Hrdlička, of the U. S. National Museum, will describe the 1932 anthropological explorations in Alaska. Dr. George Grant MacCurdy, director of the American School of Prehistoric Research, will show lantern slides exhibiting the latest Old World discoveries of fossil man. On Saturday morning, the American Anthropological Association and Section H will join with the historical and philological section for a symposium on

"Primitive Languages." (For details of this symposium and others see *SCIENCE*, November 11.)

The psychological section plans sessions from Wednesday morning, December 28, to Friday afternoon, December 30. At a joint session with the educational section on Wednesday evening the addresses of the retiring vice-presidents for the two sections will be given. Professor Herbert S. Langfeld, of Princeton University, retiring vice-president of Section I (Psychology) will speak on historical development in response psychology, and Professor Ernest Horn, of the University of Iowa, retiring vice-president for Section Q (Education) will speak on science and the problem of value. On Wednesday afternoon problems of old age will be discussed by Professor Walter R. Miles and Catharine Cox Miles, of Yale University, by Dr. David Wechsler, of Bellevue Hospital, New York, and by Professor John E. Anderson, of the University of Minnesota. On Thursday afternoon Miss Myrtle B. McGraw, of the Babies Hospital, New York City, and Dr. E. A. Doll, of the Training School at Vineland, New Jersey, will show motion pictures in a symposium on "Mental Development." Miss McGraw will also speak on outstanding phases in the development of specific traits of infants during the first year of life, and Dr. Doll will speak on the psychological significance of cerebral birth lesions. Twenty-seven other psychological papers will be presented on a wide range of subjects, including tests and measurements, responses, behavior patterns, reliability and cheating, psychoneuroses and others.

Section Q (Education) will begin its program on