field observations. The models are designed to simulate the characteristics observed in the prototypes.

(4) An attempt is being made to express the results of these studies in terms of rational laws. It is hoped that ultimately these rational laws can be arrived at independently and tested with the empirical data.

These studies are important for the control and regulation of rivers. Also, because rivers play an important part in the sculpture of the landscape, the studies of river morphology fit into the broader geological programs of the Geological Survey which are concerned with geological processes and their part in historical geology.

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Received February 10, 1954.

Geologic Map of Wyoming

A NEW full-color geologic map of Wyoming, which has been in preparation since 1946 by the U.S. Geological Survey, is now rapidly approaching completion. It will be an almost complete revision of the original state geologic map published in 1925, and a refined and slightly revised version of a black and white map of Wyoming published in a preliminary edition in 1952.

The new colored map shows the distribution, comparative thickness, and structural trend of various geologic units. Most of the major mountain ranges in the state are distinguished by a core of pre-Cambrian rocks surrounded by concentric outcrop bands of Mesozoic and Cenozoic rocks. Cenozoic rocks also cover a large part of the state outside of mountainous areas. Lava flows and related rocks are most common in the Yellowstone National Park–Absaroka Range area. Large-scale fold systems, delineated by parallelism of certain of the outcrop bands, are particularly noticeable in the west-central part of the state.

Of the 97,000 sq mi in the state of Wyoming, only the geology for 100 sq mi from the 1925 map was reused. Coverage for the remaining 96,900 sq mi was obtained from more than 200 detailed maps from diverse sources, all prepared since 1925. Many of these maps are published, but a large number are unpublished and the information is presented for the first time on the new map. The major sources of material for the new map are publications and files of the U.S. Geological Survey, the Wyoming Geological Survey, faculty and graduate students of the University of Wyoming, and several oil companies. An index map inset shows sources of material used in the compilation.

To emphasize the variation and changes in nomenclature of many of the geologic units in different parts of the state, a separate explanation is given for each of the four quadrants of the state. In many places where the outcrop of a formation is too narrow to be shown as a single unit, it has been included with another unit or a group of units. An outcrop so narrow that it would be less than 1/32 in. on a map could not be shown. Thus in an area where beds are vertical, only units that are thicker than 1300 ft could be shown as independent units.

Maps used in the compilation were mainly within the scale range of 1 : 24,000 to 1 : 63,360. These maps were reduced to the compilation scale of 1 : 400,000 either by photography or by means of a vertical projector. Maps of abnormally large scale were reduced to the compilation scale of 1 : 400,000 in two steps.

The new geologic map, which measures approximately 50 by 72 in. is at a scale of 1 : 500,000 (one in. equals about 8 mi). It is printed on a new base that shows county, state, and federal roads, land grid, settlements, and drainage. The map contains 142 geologic units, each identified by a pattern and by one of 17 different colors, depending upon the system to which it belongs. Seventeen different printing plates and as many press runs will be required to print the geologic map on the prepared base.

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Received February 10, 1954.

The Molybdenum Blue Reaction and the Determination of Phosphorus in Waters Containing Arsenic, Silicon, and Germanium

PHOSPHATE is an essential nutrient, and from a biological standpoint its determination provides a key to the understanding of one of the important biochemical cycles in the ocean. The accurate determination of phosphate in ocean waters is important to the geochemist because such data are essential to the formulation of possible mechanisms for phosphate rock deposition in marine environments and, similarly, are important to possible interpretations of the association and distribution of the small amounts of other elements usually found in phosphate rock.

Methods for the determination of small amounts of phosphorus are usually based on the formation of phosphomolybdic acid and its subsequent reduction to a blue compound. The molybdenum blue reaction is not specific for phosphorus, as arsenic (V), germanium, and silicon also form heteropoly acids with molybdenum and yield blue compounds on reduction. Although the literature on the molybdenum blue reaction is voluminous, basic data are lacking on all the conditions under which the molybdenum blue reaction for Si, As, P, and Ge can be obtained. One of the aims of the study reported here was to obtain these data, not only to fill some gaps in our knowledge of the chemistry of the heteropoly acids of these elements, but to reveal any differences in behavior that might be of analytical significance. When stannous chloride or 1-amino-2-naphthol-4-sulfonic acid was