

## NOTES.

WE regret to record the deaths of the following mineralogists:—

Dr. Antonio D'ACHIARDI (1839–1902), Professor of Mineralogy in the University of Pisa. He was the author of numerous papers and textbooks, including a mineralogy of Tuscany, and only a short time ago was elected an honorary member of this Society.

M. Augustin Alexis DAMOUR (1808–1902), who, after his retirement from the diplomatic service in 1854, devoted himself to the chemical study of minerals.

Dr. Friedrich August FRENZEL (1842–1902), who advanced from the position of a working miner to that of Director of the Royal Metallurgical Laboratory at Freiberg (Saxony); his talent was recognized by Breithaupt. He was the author of numerous mineralogical papers written since 1870, his well-known 'Mineralogisches Lexicon für das Königreich Sachsen' having been published in 1874.

Professor Paul Gabriel HAUTEFEUILLE (1836–1902), member of the Paris Academy of Sciences and Professor of Mineralogy in the University of Paris. He was successful in the artificial preparation of numerous minerals.

M. Vivant Léon MOISSENET (1831–1901), formerly Professor of Assaying in the École des Mines, Paris, and an honorary member of this Society since 1877; he was the author of several papers on the mineral-veins of Cornwall.

Dr. Carlo RIVA (1872–1902), Docent in Petrology and assistant in the Mineralogical Laboratory of the University of Pavia; his early death was the result of an accident in the Alps.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas WILTSHIRE (1826–1902), formerly Professor of Geology and Mineralogy in King's College, London, and a member of this Society. His collection of minerals he gave, a few years ago, to the Mineralogical Museum at Cambridge.

An effort is being made by the mayor and municipal council of St. Just-en-Chaussée, dép. Oise, to raise a memorial to two famous men, the brothers Haüy, who were born at that town: René Just (1743–1822), abbé and mineralogist, was the founder of mineralogy as an exact science; Valentin (1746–1822), philanthropist, was the founder of the

first school for the blind. The French and English mineralogical societies are interesting themselves in the appeal for subscription, and it is to be hoped that the sum of 25,000 francs required to carry out the project will soon be raised.

To the extensive donations of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan to public mineral collections, noted in the last number of this Magazine, must now be added that of a collection of precious stones recently presented by him to the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle at Paris. This collection, consisting of 600 specimens of faceted and rough stones, was brought together by Mr. G. F. Kunz for the Pan-American Exposition of 1901 to illustrate the occurrence of precious stones in both North and South America, and especially in the United States, and is said to be one of the finest and most complete collections of its kind.

Among the several exhibits of mineralogical interest at the Royal Society's *Conversazione* in May last may be mentioned the microscope preparations of meteoric and artificial irons shown by Mr. J. E. Stead. When polished surfaces are heated in air the various constituents—metallic iron, carbide and phosphide of iron—acquire different oxidation tints, which in reflected light rival in brilliancy the polarization colours of a transparent mineral section. In this way was shown the minute structure of a piece of artificial iron in which small, but beautifully marked, Widmanstätten figures had been developed by the very slow cooling of the mass from a high temperature.

It is interesting to remember that this method of 'heat-tinting' was the way by which the crystalline structure of meteoric iron was shown by Widmanstätten in 1808. The method has, however, been recently developed by metallographers, and, in conjunction with Koenigsberger's method of detecting polarization of light reflected from the surfaces of opaque crystals (abstract, this vol., p. 203), should find an extensive application in the study of meteoric irons.

The rare event of the fall of a meteoric stone was witnessed on September 13, 1902, near Crumlin in co. Antrim. The weight of the stone is 9 lb. 5½ oz., and it measures 7½ × 6½ × 3½ inches; it is thus the largest stone which has been observed to fall in the British Isles for eighty-nine years. The stone was acquired for the British Museum collection through Mr. Fletcher, who has given a preliminary account of the fall and of the stone itself in 'Nature' (vol. lxxvi, p. 577).

In addition to the Crumlin meteorite, mentioned above, the following noteworthy recent additions to the mineral collection of the British Museum may be mentioned:—

A large crystal of topaz, measuring two feet in length and weighing 137 pounds, from Sætersdalen, Norway.

A large and valuable collection of native gold and gold tellurides from Western Australia, presented by the Government of Western Australia and by various gold-mining companies. A description of these specimens is given above on p. 268, and a selection of them is exhibited in the recent acquisition case in the Mineral Gallery.

We have received several descriptive catalogues and guides reprinted from the Report of the United States National Museum at Washington. One of these, by Mr. George P. Merrill, on the non-metallic minerals exhibited in the section of Applied Geology, extends to 330 pages and is illustrated by 30 excellent plates together with several text-figures, and is in itself a valuable text-book on the economic applications of minerals. Other catalogues, by Mr. Wirt Tassin, deal with the collection of precious stones (200 pp., 9 plates and 26 text-figures), the collection of meteorites, and a collection illustrating the properties of minerals, while another outlines the classification adopted for the systematic collection of minerals.

From the annual report for 1889–1900 we learn that the same museum has acquired the private collection of minerals of the late Professor C. U. Shepard; this includes some 5,000 selected specimens, many of them types described by Professor Shepard and of great rarity.

A small handbook, 'Aids to the Analysis and Assay of Ores, Metals, Fuels, &c.,' by J. James Morgan (London, 1902, viii + 105 pp. Price 2s. 6d., or in paper covers 2s.), has been received from the publishers, Baillière, Tindall & Cox. It gives concise instructions for the execution of various technical analyses.