

quantitative work, that they would soon produce an apparatus far better packed and in much smaller compass than those supplied by Herr Lingke, the well-known Freiberg maker.

C. L. N. F.

GUANAJUATITE (J. W. Mallet, *Am. Journ. Sci.*, Ap. 1878.)—This is the *Frenzelite* of Dana's Mineralogy, 5th Ed., 2nd appendix—it was first noticed by Senor Castillo in March, 1873, as a sulpho-selenide of bismuth from Guanajuato, Mexico.

The analysis now given is as follows :—

Selenium	31·64
Sulphur	·61
Bismuth	59·92
Alumina	2·53
Ferric Oxide	tr
Silica.. .. .	3·47
Water	1·46
	99·63

This agrees very fairly with the formula $\text{Bi}_2 \text{S}_3$.

J. H. C.

HOMILITE (*Ann. Chem. et Phys.* v. xii. 1877).—This mineral described by Parjkill in Dec. 1876 as a silicoborate of iron and lime occurring with meliphanite and erdmannite on the island of Stockoë, near Brevig, is regarded by M. M. Damour and Descloiseaux as a mixture, on chemical and optical grounds.

Correspondence and Notes.

To the Editor of the Mineralogical Magazine.

Sir,

Mineralogists, Physicists, and I conceive, also, Geologists, must alike be grateful to Professor Church for introducing to their notice what we may for a time call *Sonstadt's specific gravity solution*.

The application of this, though clearly restricted, will be at one and the same time rapid and precise. Two of the properties of this solution cannot however be too soon impressed upon those who purpose to apply it.

It is a rapid and powerful vesicant, and it is frightfully poisonous.

It so happened that while preparing a quantity of this so called "solution," some drops thereof fell upon one of my hands; these drops were too hastily rubbed off, before drawing on my gloves to run to catch a train.

Some half hour thereafter a stinging sensation caused me to withdraw the glove, when I found my hand to be in a state of violent inflammation.

I did not use my tongue, but, being in the train, I had to repeatedly use my handkerchief, moistened with what was on my tongue, with the result that I had to hold the latter, almost in a double sense, for the rest of the day.

I have used above the expression "the so called solution," because it really is not a solution of mercury bichloride in potassium iodide which is being formed, were it so, the peculiar intermittance or alternation of the action of the solvents would be most difficult of explanation upon the known laws of adhesion.

It is a *new salt* which is being produced—this salt can be separated by slow cooling in needle crystals of some three inches in length—apparently belong to the oblique prismatic system—have a high dispersive power—a sulphur yellow colour, and are extremely deliquescent.

To emphacise my warning as to the properties of the liquid, I sign myself,

M. FORSTER HEDDLE, M.D.

St. Andrews, March, 1878.

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CAPTAIN MARSHALL HALL would be very glad to hear of any mineralogists likely to visit the Lötschenthal and the Val d'Anniviers during the coming summer. The best rendezvous would be the Hotel et Pension, Bauer, Sierre.—Scientific Club, 7, Savile Row, W.

A Société de Mineralogie has been formed at Paris, with M. Des Cloiseaux as President. It meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Mineralogical Laboratory of the Sorbonne.

Obituary.

THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD KINNAIRD K.T., a fellow of the Geological Society and a member of the Mineralogical Society, died of inflammation of the lungs at Rossie Priory, in December, 1877. He was born in 1807, and succeeded his father in 1826. He was one of the original members of the Mineralogical Society.

The Rev. C. M. EDWARD COLLINS died at his seat of Trewardale, Bodmin, on the 3rd of Dec., 1877, aged 62. He was one of the original members of the Mineralogical Society.



