

XX.—*Note on Abriachanite.*

BY PROFESSOR HEDDLE.

IN my preliminary notice of this substance, I stated, upon the authority of Dr. Aitkin, that it had been supposed that it very possibly had at one time been used as a pigment in Inverness; a colourist there manufacturing a paint the nature of which he kept secret.

In re-arranging lately, a number of chemicals which had been made over to me in 1856 by my predecessor, Mr. Connell, I found a bottle with a powder of the same tint, but somewhat darker than the washed *Abriachanite*. The label of this bottle bore on it "Ultramarine made in 1841, by Murdock Paterson, dyer in Inverness."

I have not yet had an opportunity of analysing this powder, which may be merely *abriachanite* darkened by simple treatment with an acid.

Dr. Aitken sent me some which had been steeped in hydrochloric acid,—this had however, somewhat too much of the colour of Turnbull's blue.

I have now to announce the discovery of a new locality for the mineral.

An old limestone quarry had been during last spring found by Dr. Aitken, near the road from Inverfarrakaig to Foyers. We examined this together in the autumn. The lime-stone bed is not at all of the same nature as that so amply disclosed on the north side of Lochness, at Glen Urquhart; being fine-granular, close and firm in structure, and grey in colour.

The lime dips at a high angle to the south-east, and is bedded with the gneiss of the district, which occasionally has thin veins of quartzose massive granular *epidote* (*epidosite*.) Differing in this respect widely from the Urquhart lime, it carries almost no minerals: here and there a vein of pale flesh-coloured, greasy-lustred *orthoclase*, very rarely a striated feldspar (*andesine* ?) and a little bright, pale green muscovite with traces of *epidote*.

Cutting the lime, however, and somewhat in the line of its strike there is a tortuous vein of graphic granite, of a delicate pale pink colour. The quartz letterings are usually colourless, but occasionally they are of a red tint.

This granite is rent by "shakes," and in these shakes, and there alone, the *abriachanite* is to be seen *disposed only on the surfaces of the quartz letterings*, and throwing them out in bold character. While this mode of occurrence goes far to prove it to be a product of change, it is itself very singular and difficult of explanation.

The mineral is in a powdery state.