

XXIII.—*On the occurrence of Celestine in New Red Marl, near Sidmouth.*

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Communicated by F. W. Rudler, F.G.S.

WHILST staying at Sidmouth, in 1877, I discovered the occurrence of Celestine, Sulphate of Strontian, in cavities of Red Marl lined with crystals of Calcite, occurring in masses which had fallen from the cliff on to the shore, under the summit of Peak Hill. It appears in the form of crystals, occasionally one inch in length, which occur singly or in groups, presenting a tabular, prismato-tabular, or prismatic form,—in the latter case resembling the Barytes Crystals of Alston Moor,—and are either simple, or form compound aggregations of considerable size. In colour they are blue, wine-yellow, or of an olive-yellow hue, and as regards form, brilliancy, and transparency, surpass in beauty any examples of this mineral that I have hitherto seen. A series of the choicest specimens collected by me are exhibited in the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn Street.

I am informed by Mr. P. O. Hutchinson of Sidmouth, that a small specimen of the mineral was found about 50 years ago, in Salcombe Hill, east of the town, but its occurrence in Peak Hill, west of Sidmouth, appears to have escaped notice.*

* In Greg and Lettsom's Manual of Mineralogy, Celestine is stated as occurring at Sidmouth "on gypsum" and "in flints" Mr. Hutchinson is unacquainted with these modes of its occurrence at Sidmouth, but if the gypsum association is correct, the locality where the mineral is thus found would probably be *east* of Sidmouth, in which direction gypsum does occur. In the British Museum and in that in Jermyn Street, are examples of Celestine occurring on flint from Montmartre, near Paris, but none from Sidmouth.