I have only to add a circumstance in some degree connected with this subject. It was intimated to me that some suspicion had arisen, that the reason why these vessels were so easily acted upon, was in consequence of their having been glazed with the galena or lead ore, obtained at the Northampton mine, instead of the red oxyd of lead or litharge, which they formerly used, till I suggested about a year ago, the advantage which would arise to the potters, from adopting the use of this lead ore instead of red lead, which was always imported from England, at great expense; while the ore which was equally efficacious, could be obtained at home, and at a comparative trifling expense. It seems an object of some importance, therefore, to remove any prejudice of this kind, as nothing can be more erroneous, than the idea that this ore is not equally safe in the process of glazing; it is what is exclusively used in England for the coarser kind of pottery, in consequence of which it has since obtained the name of potters ore.

DESCRIPTION OF CERTAIN MINERALS,

FOUND IN THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

BY JOHN FOTHERGILL WATERHOUSE, M. D.

THESE feeble attempts at the description of a few American minerals were excited by the review, which appeared in the last number of the Journal, of an address delivered before the Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts, by T. R. Beck, on the interesting subject of the mineralogy of our country. The idea forcibly impressed itself, that we wanted a concise history of American Minerals, thrown into a systematic form. How shall this be effected? certainly by the communication of the curious with each other through the medium of the press.

The history of a rare fossil, found perhaps in one spot only, adds little to the knowledge of the mineralogy of a new country. We would wish to know the varieties, both in form and colour, of every species, and its locality; but that is not all, its geological relations; and we earnestly desire that what is known should be concentrated. Gentle reader, look with a charitable eye upon my exertions, and correct mistakes, of which there must be many, as if they were your own.

BERYLL. Light green, yellowish and white: translucent: six-sided truncated prisms, striated longitudinally; from an half inch in diameter to four and six; from a quarter of a pound in weight to twenty. The larger masses are not regular crystals.

a. variety. Aigue Marine. Light bluish green, opalescent; fracture conchoidal: same form: both varieties scratch glass and quartz. Hampshire county, Mass.

In *laying masses* of granit; between strata of micaceous shistus.

GARNITS. Garnit dodecagon, with rhomboidal facets; the edges are sometimes truncated and the facets marked by the decrements, so as beautifully to illustrate the theory of Havy. Their size is from an eighth of an inch to two inches and a half in diameter. Good quality. Immense quantities in micaceous shistus.

a. variety. Garnit in mass, having a fibrous or flat fibrous structure, passing, as I am certain, by imperceptible gradation into Cyanite. Some of the garnits were regular, distinct and beautiful. Some of the Cyanite was crystallized in regular rhomboidal tables, with various truncations. Some were almost white, others of a clear cerulean hue, and others of a bright Prussian blue, but one could not say with regard to most specimens whether he saw Garnit or Cyanite—with the last

variety in Micaceous schistus, if it be properly so called, when at least one half of the ledge is garnit.

- b. variety.* Two eight-sided pyramids base to base, acuminate by four planes : facets striated diagonally, so as to show the crystalline structure according to the theory of Haüy. Common. Bedford, Mass. Falls of Schuylkill, Penn.

TOURMALINE. Black Shorl. Triangular prisms, truncated laterally, striated, terminated at both ends by a depressed three-sided pyramid.

- a. variety.* Haddam, Conn. Andover, Mass. and Hampshire county, Mass. in Granit. The mountains of New-Hampshire.

- b. variety.* Indicolite. Irregular three-sided prisms. Indigo-colour. Granit. Hampshire county.

- c. variety.* Tourmaline, green shorl. Usual figure ; colour, passing from light green in dank ; longitudinal striated : length from the quarter of an inch to five, and one inch in diameter. They are frequently bent and cracked transversely in the direction of the natural fracture ; though these fractures run thin plates of quartz or felspar. These beautiful crystals are imbedded in a brittle quartz and felspar (lamellar) so that a termination has not been met with, excepting among the smallest. This variety has been called Axandalite and Pistazite, but why I know not, since every crystal which I have seen was a triangular prism with more or less lateral truncations, or might be resolved into it.

- d. variety.* Small smokey prisms, of the usual form, resembling and perhaps passing into Cyanite.

- e. variety.* Reds chorl : usual form : light pink : translucent : long and slender ; but we could not discover any termination to any of them. Sometimes the red is invested by the green, which is

very rare. This, and the transverse fissures and the figure establishes the identity of the species. The three last varieties, *c. d. &c.* occur in a contemporaneous vein, traversing a *laying mass* of granit, which is interposed between the strata of micaceous schistus.

f. variety. Beautiful brilliant light blue; sometimes light pea green—crystals, small, highly polished, diverging radiated. Granit. Hampshire county.

QUARTZ.

Hexangular prisms, terminated at both ends by hexangular pyramids: from the quarter of an inch in diameter to three. Greenbush, opposite Albany. Smaller—Stafford, Conn. Terminated at one end only by a pyramid, very common. Lead mines, North river. Southampton lead mine, and Hatfield, Mass.

Dodecagon with triangular facets, or two hexangular pyramids, base to base. Bedford, Mass.

PHRENITE.

Colour, white, greenish, light green and light olive green: stellated: crystallized in rhomboidal tables, one angle projecting, which is sometimes truncated; and frequently the two angles of the thin tables project, and they are also sometimes truncated. Disseminated through transitions of greenstone. Charlestown, M. Phrenite is also found in Trap, near New-Haven, Conn. Brookfield, Mass. Small quantities in Watertown, Mass.