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VII.—ON THE OCCURRENCE OF ALBITE IN THE GRANITE OF LEINSTER.

By W. H. STACPOOLE WESTROPP, M.R.I.A.

DURING the past summer, I had the good fortune to detect Albite (Soda-feldspar) in some blocks of granite in the wall of the west pier at Kingstown, Co. Dublin. As the pier is built of rock from the Dalkey quarries, the mineral can be referred, with tolerable certainty, to its original locality. I was induced to look closely at the above-mentioned blocks, through noticing that they contained a mineral of a purple colour; this proved to be fluor, which occurs sparingly throughout the Leinster granite. Associated with the fluor was a pretty considerable quantity of a white mineral, occurring in aggregations of minute crystals; this appeared to me to be so like Albite that I considered it deserving a careful examination. I brought some of it to the Rev. Professor Haughton, F.R.S., who agreed with me in thinking that it had a very albitic look, and kindly undertook to have it analyzed, which has been done with the following result:—

Silica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64·70
Alumina	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21·80
Potash	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2·84
Soda	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9·78
Loss	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0·30
										99·42

Unfortunately the quantity which could be separated sufficiently pure for analytical purposes was very small.

This discovery is one of no little interest in the correlation of the irruptive granites of Leinster with those of Mourne and Cornwall.

There can be little doubt but that most, if not all, granite contains a second feldspar in addition to Orthoclase (Potash-feldspar).

The second feldspar that is a constituent of the bedded granites of Connaught, Donegal, parts of Scotland, and Scandinavia, is always oligoclase. The opinion is daily gaining support that these bedded rocks are really of metamorphic origin.

Oligoclase has never been found in irruptive (intrusive) granites, such as those of Leinster, Mourne, Cornwall, and parts of Scotland, but it is not improbable that Albite may be a normal constituent, though not always occurring in the crystalline condition.

It is some years since Professor Haughton, in the first of his well

known and invaluable researches in British granites, shewed that the granite of Leinster contains more soda than will satisfy the condition of its having orthoclase as its only feldspar; and in a recent communication to the Royal Society of London, he stated (I quote from memory) that though Albite had never yet been detected in the Leinster granite, its existence could be inferred with considerable probability.

At any time the discovery of this mineral would be of considerable interest, but it is particularly so just now, as it proves the soundness of the conjecture of Professor Haughton, who has done more than any living geologist towards solving the great problem of the origin of granite.

NOTICES OF MEMOIRS.

I.—ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LIVERPOOL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. SESSION THE TENTH, 1868-69.

IN his anniversary address, read before the Liverpool Geological Society on the 13th October, 1868, Mr. R. A. Eskrigge, F.G.S., the retiring President, made a few remarks on the work done by the Society during the past session. They were then entering upon the tenth session, and the number of members, which at first was six, had increased to fifty-six. Still, within the last four years there had been no advance, the withdrawals having slightly exceeded the number of new members. Mr. Eskrigge, however, was inclined to regard the numerical position of the Society as satisfactory, considering the comparatively small attraction presented by the geological features of their immediate neighbourhood. But there was cause for regret and disappointment in noticing how few members took an active part in their Transactions. A meeting of the British Association in Liverpool was anticipated within two or three years, and the President therefore urged them to greater activity, saying that, as on such an occasion prominence would probably be given to the peculiar features of local geology, it behoved the Society to be in readiness for the work which then would fairly devolve upon them.¹

The volume of Proceedings now before us contains some notes by Dr. C. Ricketts, F.G.S., on the Silurian and Carboniferous rocks in the neighbourhood of Ingleborough. The latter strata repose, except where faulted, in a strictly horizontal position on the highly inclined and contorted Silurian rocks. In the dales, the Carboniferous rocks have been cut through by the action of subaërial denudation, which has exposed and also deeply eroded the older rocks beneath.²

Mr. Charles Potter records some observations on the Cheshire Coast. He describes a section of Peat and Silt beds resting on Boulder-clay.

Mr. Robert Bostock contributes a paper on the New Red Sand-

¹ The meeting of the British Association in 1870 will be held in Liverpool.

² For a detailed description of the Silurian rocks reference is made to a paper by Mr. T. McKenny Hughes in the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for 1867, p. 346.