

be a hexagonal modification of palladium, could not be procured for a re-examination; it is probably the ordinary cubic palladium.

Dr. H. V. Ellsworth: "A simple and accurate Constant-volume Pyknometer for Specific Gravity Determination."

The pyknometer of 10 c.c. capacity is made of silica glass, thus possessing several advantages over one made of ordinary glass. The stopper is perforated by a capillary and is continued into a graduated side-tube, which dips under water while the apparatus is cooling. The volume of the contained water to the graduations on the side-tube can be readily and accurately determined to 0.0002 c.c.

Mr. W. Campbell Smith: "The Optical Orientation of Labradorite from County Down (Ireland) determined by the Fedorov Method."

The labradorite from basaltic dykes at St. John's Point, Ardglass, Co. Down, of which the chemical composition and refractive indices were published in 1912, has been studied by the Fedorov method and the optical orientation determined.

Dr. C. E. Tilley demonstrated the inversion of Ca_2SiO_4 in a metamorphic limestone from Larne, Co. Antrim (Ireland), and Mr. A. F. Hallimond exhibited an electro-magnetic separator for mineral powders.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SIR,—I regret that in my article in the October number of the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE* I should have used an expression which was liable to be misunderstood. I wrote that: "F. Loewinson-Lessing claims to have put forward a classification . . . in 1890." I wish to make it clear that I had no idea of disparaging Professor Loewinson-Lessing's work, or of questioning his priority in the matter. My reason for using this particular form of expression was that Professor Loewinson-Lessing's original papers were not accessible to me, and my only source of information was a note that appeared recently in *Mineral Abstracts*. I have the greatest difficulty in obtaining access to petrological literature, especially to volumes more than twenty-five years old. This is the explanation, and I hope it may be accepted as the excuse, of many faults of omission in my writings. As regards the question of priority, I have already pointed out that Ferdinand Zirkel has priority over all of us in recognizing the importance of the saturation principle in the classification of eruptive rocks.

S. J. SHAND.

STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA.
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