

the localities myself to make a fuller study than is possible in the laboratory. In the meantime the following notes may be of interest.

The nephelite-syenite of the Granitberg was described very briefly by Wagner. It is a foyaitite with a very variable amount of nephelite, which may locally make up two-thirds of the rock. The chief dark mineral is a green ægirite-augite. This rock is cut by two dykes of a singularly interesting microfoyaite which contains, in addition to micropertchite, nephelite, and pyroxene, smaller amounts of biotite, perovskite, and zircon. The perovskite forms perfect octahedrons up to half a millimetre in diameter. Zircon occurs in skeletons and irregular groups and plates, and often encloses grains and laths of felspar. The dark minerals amount to just under 10 per cent of the rock.

From the neighbourhood of Pomona there are several monchiquites and camptonites, some fresh and others too much decomposed for certain identification. In one of the camptonites, crystals of barkevikite are enclosed by titanite with a reaction rim of magnetite separating the two. In all these lamprophyres there are pseudomorphs of a mineral like iddingsite, apparently replacing olivine. I have also a beautiful ægirite-solvsbergite with marked flow-structure, and some typical bostonites and lindöites. Dr. Rogers has also found numerous bostonite dykes in Van Rhyn's Dorp and Namaqualand.

I hope to publish a full account of these interesting rocks in the course of time.

S. J. SHAND.

GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT, VICTORIA COLLEGE,
STELLENBOSCH, S.A.

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BURSTING OF A LAKE BARRIER IN ARGENTINA.

SIR,—It is not often that one finds anything of geological interest in the report of a railway company, but the following details from the Report of the Directors of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company for the year ended June 30, 1915, are interesting.

“The most sensational, although by no means the most costly, of the long series of mishaps due to this cause [the weather], was the cataclysm in the Rio Colorado Valley in the early days of January, when some thirty-six miles of the Railway were submerged under deep water, and traffic on the Neuquen line beyond Gavietas was entirely cut off for almost a month. This stupendous, and at first inexplicable visitation, was discovered to be the outcome of the sudden release, 350 miles away from the line as the crow flies, of an immense body of water called Lake Carrilauquen, which had been formed by a landslide at a comparatively recent geological epoch. Owing to stress of weather this natural dam suddenly gave way and thus launched 2,800,000,000 tons of water into the valley of the Rio Colorado.”

The lake is nearly 6,000 feet above the sea-level. It was some 15 miles long, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles wide, and over 300 feet deep at the lower end.

BERNARD HOBSON.