

BOOK NOTICES.

THE HISTORY OF MOUNT MICA OF MAINE, U.S.A., AND ITS WONDERFUL DEPOSITS OF MATCHLESS TOURMALINES.—By Augustus Choate Hamlin. Published by the Author; Bangor, Maine, 1895, pp. 72, forty-three colored plates, etc.

This is a memorial volume, dedicated by the author to his father, Hon. Elijah Livermore Hamlin, and his son, Frederick Cutting Hamlin. It gives a history of the development of the locality from the time of its discovery down to the present day, describes the deposits and the mode of occurrence of the tourmalines with a chapter (VII.), giving explanations of a plan of the workings and of the beautiful colored plates. The book is attractive in appearance, and that it is pleasantly written the following extract will suffice to show:—"It (Mount Mica) was discovered in 1820 by two students who had become interested in the study of mineralogy, and who spent much of their leisure time in searching for minerals among the exposed ledges and the mountains around the village. Late in the autumn of 1820, and on one of its clear, calm days, they started out to explore the range of hills which form the eastern boundary of the town, and stretch away to the north-west until lost among the mountains around Molly Ocket. The names of these two students were Elijah L. Hamlin and Ezekiel Holmes. Hamlin was a resident of the village, but Holmes was a visitor, and temporarily a student in the place. They had spent most of the day along the mountain ridge to the southward, and were descending the western declivity on their way home, just as the sun was setting behind the great White Mountain range, fifty miles or more away on the western horizon. At this moment the view of the intervening country, diversified in color and in shade, together with the gorgeous masses of changing clouds in the western sky, formed a picture of great beauty, and young Hamlin, fascinated with the entrancing picture spread before him, halted for a moment on the crest of a little knoll to enjoy the scene. On turning to the eastward for an instant for a final look at the woods and mountains in his rear, a vivid gleam of green flashed from an object on the roots of a tree, upturned by the wind, and caught his eye." Such was the discovery of the first of the matchless tourmalines of Mount Mica. A heavy fall of snow prevented the students from continuing their investigations on the following day, but when the winter's snow had melted they returned to the spot and soon discovered the source from whence the tree-borne fragment had been derived.

The plates are from original drawings by the author, and have been produced in color by the Coloritype Company of New York.

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