

has resulted from a metamorphism of the lime-bearing felspars; while during the process of change from basic felspar to scapolite, and from scapolite to hydrated aluminium silicates, and from these to aluminium oxide, "the slowly liberated oxide may assume the crystalline form, and thus give rise to corundum." Among other minerals found in the corundiferous limestone are pyrrhotite, hematite, apatite, graphite and spinel.

In Ceylon, in the peninsula of India, and in China, there are numerous occurrences of corundum in crystalline schists; and in almost every case the mineral is of the gem variety. As far as known to the writer, there are no deposits in Asia now exploited for use in the arts, saving the emery of Asia Minor.

In the United States corundum is confined almost wholly to the region of the Appalachian Mountains, along a belt that extends from New Jersey to Alabama. In the form of emery it is found at Chester, Massachusetts, in a chlorite belt about twenty feet wide, that lies between formations of hornblende-schist and talc, and traverses the mountains for about four miles. There is also a productive emery mine in Westchester county, New York, which ships from 500 to 700 tons of abrasive emery per annum.

Along the Appalachian mountain chain corundum is found in felspar veins and associated with chlorite in peridotite and serpentine rocks, in amphibolite, dunite and gneiss, as well as in gravel-beds. The principal deposits are found in association with magnesian rocks, chiefly peridotites, which occur as small lenticular masses in gneiss. As a rule, however, the corundum is neither in the peridotite nor in the gneiss, but in a narrow zone of chloritic minerals between the two. The largest known areas are in the south-western counties of North Carolina, where corundum was first discovered in 1870. This state has furnished nearly all the corundum of commerce for the United States, but the statistics of the mines and works have never been published. There has been much waste of effort in mining for the gem varieties, encouraged by occasional discoveries, but chiefly by the attractive colors in which the corundum is found. The whole process of mining and milling has had to be learned by experience; and the task has been made difficult not only by the character of the formations, which is not favorable to sinking or drifting, but also by the closeness with which the corundum crystals adhere to the matrix.⁽¹⁾ For abrasive use it is very important that the corundum should be free from particles of rock or mineral softer than itself; and for use as an ore of aluminium it should be free from all impurities, to make extraction practicable by present methods.

The first discovery of corundum in Ontario was made by the late Sterry Hunt fifty-one years ago, in the second year of his connection with the Geological Survey of Canada. Dr. Hunt explored part of the county of Lanark in 1847. He was joined in some of his excursions by Dr. Wilson, of Perth, who at that time enjoyed some local reputation as a geologist (the mineral wilsonite is named after him), and who is still remembered as a man who paid considerable attention to the natural history of his district. The first place visited by them was the fourth lot on the eighth range of the Township of Burgess, upon which Dr. Wilson a short time before had discovered a body of apatite. Near by, on the second lot on the ninth range, was a deposit of copper pyrites in crystalline limestone, and this was also visited. The only exploration work consisted of two or three blasts, and among the masses of rock thrown out were some consisting of silvery mica, with quartz, felspar or albite, and calcspar, holding a delicate emerald-green and almost transparent pyroxene of rare beauty, as well as crystals of a dark honey-yellow

(1) Mr. Alexander Rickard of New York, who is owner of a corundum property at Energy, in York County, South Carolina, says, in a letter to me of recent date: "All our corundums are very difficult to clean. While the gangue is soft, it is tough, and adheres to the grains of corundum when it is broken up. This reduces the cutting value, and also creates trouble by fluxing when making into wheels."