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## CRYSTALS.\*

By W. F. FERRIER, B.A.SC., F.G.S. Lithologist to the Geological Survey of Canada.

I have nothing original to offer you on this subject, nor are my remarks intended to constitute a lecture on crystallography, but merely to bring to your notice some interesting facts with regard to those wonderful forms which we call crystals, and more especially to trace out the progress made in the study of them since the earliest times. The subject is so vast that it will only be possible for me to call attention to some of the more prominent and interesting facts, which constitute, as it were, the milestones along the road of our knowledge of the subject.

At the outset we are confronted with the question "What is a crystal?"

So many definitions have been given that it is somewhat difficult to select one which is expressed in simple terms and at the same time is comprehensive and accurate.

E. S. Dana says:—"Structure in Inorganic nature is a result of mathematical symmetry in the action of cohesive attraction. The forms produced are regular solids called *crystals*; whence morphology is, in the Inorganic kingdom, called CRYSTALLOLOGY. It is the science of structure in this kingdom of nature."

He subdivides the subject as follows:—

Crystallology	{	Crystallography	{ treating of forms resulting from crystallization.
		Crystallogeny	{ treating of the methods of making crystals, and the theories of their origin.

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\* (Read before the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club, Dec. 20th. 1894.)