

face and pyramid in the case of several crystals was found to be approximately 112° . One of the crystals exhibited at the meeting was four inches across.

A list of about twenty localities in Canada where molybdenite has been found was given, many of them being taken from the reports of the Geological Survey.

Remarks were also made concerning octahedral crystals of fluor spar from the township of Hull and crystals of quartz from the township of Portland, P. Q. Some of the latter are interesting on account of their being terminated at one end by a single rhombohedron while at the other end both the plus and minus rhombohedrons are well developed.

CHEMICAL—*Algin and Alginic Acid.*—After exposure to rain, the long fronds of *Laminaria stenophylla* are observed to be swollen and tumid, sacs of fluid being formed from endosmosis of water through the membrane, dissolving a peculiar glutinous body. If these sacs be cut, a neutral, glairy fluid escapes, which may be often seen partially evaporated on one frond as a colourless jelly. This substance, to which Mr. Ed. C. C. Stanford, F.C.S., has given the name *Algin*, contains calcium, magnesium, and sodium, in combination with a new acid which he has called *Alginic acid*.

Algin, when evaporated to dryness, becomes insoluble in water, but is very soluble in alkalies; it is so abundant in the plant that on maceration for twenty-four hours in cold sodium carbonate solution, the tissue is completely disintegrated, forming a thick solution having *fourteen times* the viscosity of starch and *thirty-seven times* that of gum arabic. It is coagulated by alcohol, acetone and colloidion, but not by ether and precipitated by mineral acids, various salts, and by lime water and baryta water.

It differs from albumen in not being coagulated by heat and from gelose in not gelatizing on cooling, by containing nitrogen, by dissolving in weak alkaline solutions, and by its insolubility in boiling water. From gelatin it differs by not reacting with tannin, and from starch by giving no colour with iodine; whilst its insolubility in dilute alcohol and dilute mineral acids renders it unlike gum arabic, pectin, tragacanth, and dextrin. It precipitates the salt of the alkaline earths, with the exception of magnesium, and also the salts of the metals, but it gives no precipitates with mercuric chloride nor with potassic silicate.

The uses to which Mr. Stanford proposes to apply the *Algin* are, first—In sizing fabrics, a solution of sodium alginate imparting to cloth and paper an elastic feeling, without the stiffness of starch. 2nd. Containing about the same amount of nitrogen as Dutch cheese (3.77 per cent.), and having a pleasant, marine taste, it may