

others as magnesian micas, of which the biotite differs in containing iron as well, and is consequently darker in colour and sometimes quite black. The muscovite is distinguished by its general clearness and lack of colouring, while the phlogopite mica is usually some shade of brown or yellow and is generally known as amber mica. Years ago large sheets of white mica, as it was generally styled as contrasted with the darker coloured or amber variety, were quoted at a very high price, but this distinction seems of late years to have largely disappeared, as is also the case with sheets of extra large size, since this feature of size is now attained by a process already referred to of building up by means of cement and pressure from smaller sizes, so that almost any size required can now be readily obtained.

Of these several varieties, the white or muscovite is usually found in association with intrusive masses of a whitish granite, composed of quartz and white felspar which cuts the gneiss and limestone in the form of dykes or veins; while the amber and black varieties are found in connection with pyroxenes. As a rule the darker the containing rock the blacker the mica, so that in the light coloured pyroxenes the mica is often a light shade of amber. The most perfectly shaped crystals are generally found in a matrix of calcite in the pyroxene; and were it possible to secure perfect crystals at all times there would be much more profit in mica mining than has yet been enjoyed. Unfortunately, however, the greater portion of the crystals are injured by wrinkles, cracks, small punctures or from some other cause, so that it is a fortunate mine that will yield ten per cent. of merchantable mica from its total output.

Crystals are often found in the Gatineau district of very large size, one from a mine near the Cascades being stated to have a diameter of nearly eight feet. Unfortunately these large crystals, owing to their generally fractured condition, have generally but little economic value. One of the largest deposits of this mineral yet found in the Gatineau district is in the township of Hincks. It occurs in a dyke of pyroxene which cuts the limestone of that area and is in turn cut by a dyke of green-