

of the "radiating spicules," referred to by Dr Dawson. Nor are the rings on the same plane. When examined through a good binocular they are seen to lie at different levels, a fact which seems to warrant the inference that the highly crystalline glaze, so to speak, in which they lie, consists of different layers. The spots are not in all cases perfectly circular, as may be seen by referring to the accompanying plate. It would not be profitable to speculate on the probable explanation of those molecular aggregations. I may, however, ask the Society to look at the so-called *morpholites* or clay concretions, and the dolomites from Cumberland, now on the table, as illustrating, on a large scale indeed, in a somewhat striking way, the close resemblance between them in point of form and the spots figured on the plate. This resemblance suggests a topic of great interest and of which little has yet been made. I refer to the analogies between the power of concretion and that of crystallisation. But I do not wish to make more of this resemblance than to indicate the fact. The crystalline matrix in which the spots occur has, for want of a better term, been called a glaze. Is the presence of this necessary in order to the iron oxide arranging itself in such spots? In the New College Museum is a large lump of rock crystal, on which the faces of the six-sided pyramid are covered with a layer of iron oxide, lying wholly on the surface, in the form of rough amorphous particles, and destitute of this glaze.

As I have been unable to find any published description of this variety of amethyst, and as it presents some features of considerable interest, I have thought it not unworthy the attention of the Society. The plate is an attempt to reproduce, in a rough way, the colours and the forms of some of the spots shown in the section, exhibited to the Society under the microscope.