

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

INCLUDING

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO BE OBSERVED IN USING THE TABLES.

1. The aspect (or lustre) and the colour of a mineral must be determined, as a rule, on a perfectly unaltered or newly-fractured surface. Minerals of metallic lustre, more especially, frequently present a deceptive surface character from the assumption of a dark or other tarnish.

2. When a mineral presents a sub-metallic aspect it will probably be found in both divisions of the Tables ; but in doubtful cases it should be sought for more especially in the second division. A ready test, with regard to lustre in these doubtful cases, is as follows :— Let the student ask himself the question, “ would this substance, *from its appearance*, be taken by an observer, ignorant of mineralogy, for a piece of gold, or brass, or copper, or bronze, silver, lead, tin, steel, or iron ? ” If the answer be in the negative, the name of the substance should be sought for under Division II.

3. Minerals of metallic lustre, proper, are always opaque, even in thin splinters, and their streak or powder is always distinctly coloured. Minerals of pseudo-metallic or metallic-pearly lustre (as the various micas), on the other hand, are commonly translucent or transparent in thin pieces, and their streak is either white or lightly tinted. Substances of this latter description, therefore, must be sought for under Division II. of the Tables.

4. When a mineral scratches glass (*i. e.*, ordinary window-glass) very feebly or doubtfully, it should be sought for principally under § 2 of the Division (metallic or non-metallic) to which it belongs. In trying