

Sulphide. Crystals of this rare substance have recently been prepared by Mr. F. P. Burt, University College, London, by sublimation. The constants obtained were $a : b : c = 0.8879 : 10.8480 : \beta = 90^\circ 23'$, and the observed forms were (100), (010), (001), (110), ($\bar{1}01$), (011), (101), (210), (111), ($\bar{1}21$), the last four being new. The crystals were invariably characterized by polysynthetic twinning about ($\bar{1}01$). A biaxial interference figure with strong positive double refraction was visible through ($\bar{1}01$).—Dr. G. T. Prior and Dr. G. F. H. Smith: On a new Arsenate and Phosphate of Lime and Strontia from the Indian Manganese Deposits. Chemical analysis showed that the mineral approximates to the arsenic analogue of apatite. The crystals were not well formed, but the physical characters as far as they could be determined accord with those of apatite. The name fermorite, after Dr. L. L. Fermor, of the Geological Survey of India, who has made an exhaustive study of the manganese deposits, is proposed for this analogue. The presence of strontium, which has not yet been detected in apatite, is of interest.—L. J. Spencer: A (fifth) List of New Mineral Names.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A CHELONIAN FROM THE PURBECK OF SWANAGE, DORSET.

SIR,—In my article on the above subject (see *GEOL. MAG.* for July, pp. 311–14) the following note was sent in too late for insertion:—

Hooley's *Plesiochelys vectensis* from the Wealden of the Isle of Wight (*GEOL. MAG.*, 1900, p. 263) shows a præneural and seven neurals, instead of eight neurals as suggested in the original description. The specimen probably indicates a new genus.

Seeley's *Pleurosternum typocardium*, which was insufficiently characterized in his *Index to Aves, etc., in the Cambridge Museum*, is founded on a specimen of *Glyptops ruefimeyeri*. It is much more oval in outline than my Fig. 1, a difference possibly partly due to sex, but otherwise shows no new features. The protuberances caused by the crushing through of the axillary and inguinal buttresses are quite evident. Seeley's other species, *Pleurosternum sedgwickii*, *vansittardi*, and *oweni*, appear to be typical examples of *P. bullocki*.

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THE TERM 'LATERITE'.

SIR,—I refuse to plead guilty to the charge advanced by Mr. Scrivenor in your July issue of attempting to force a new definition of laterite on geologists and engineers. I only ask that the word shall be employed for rocks which are chemically and physically allied to that on which it was bestowed by Buchanan.

In dealing with questions of priority of nomenclature we must inquire what was the thing (rock, mineral, or organism, as the case may be) to which the name was first applied, not why it was so applied. Buchanan found a rock widely extended in India which was unlike anything with which he was familiar, and he thought that it