in muscovite " books " parallel to the cleavages. The garnets among themselves have no well-defined orientation but sometimes occur in rows parallel to growth-planes of the muscovite. The crystallization of mica and garnet seems to have been more or less simultaneous, the partially crystallized muscovite influencing the habit of the garnet by molecular forces.

(2) On the nature of withamite. By C. Osborne Hutton.

The pink epidote mineral, withamite, occurring in altered andesites in Glen Coe, Scotland, has been analysed and its optics determined. This data shows that it is a poorly manganiferous piedmontite with a pleochroism comparable to that recorded for the New Zealand mineral. The occurrence is compared with several piedmontite-bearing localities in America and two hypotheses as to origin are put forward.

(3) Australites: a unique shower of glass meteorites. By Dr. Charles Fenner.

The different types of tektites and the several theories of their origin are reviewed. The similarity of type and the wide distribution of australites point to a cosmic origin. It is suggested that they were shed from a meteoritic body in the earth's atmosphere as siliceous blobs, which on further melting during flight acquired their particular shapes.

(4) The stilpnomelane group of minerals. By C. Osborne Hutton.

Stilpnomelane minerals have been found, often abundantly developed, in the low grade, dynamically metamorphosed schists of Western Otago, New Zealand. Their chemical and optical properties have been studied and the relationship between them has been represented by curves. These minerals are found to vary between end members, the hydrous ferric silicate, stilpnomelane, and the hydrous ferrous type, for which the name ferrostilpnomelane is proposed, and a manganiferous member, parsettensite. Six new analyses of members of the group and seven rock analyses are given, while the results of dehydration and X-ray work are also submitted. A theory of metamorphic origin of members of the group is advanced.

(5) An account of British mineral collectors and dealers (continued). By Mr. Arthur Russell.

(6) The rare-earth content of the fluorite of England and Wales. By V. L. Aspland, A. Brammall, and J. G. C. Leech.

Quantitative spectrographic analyses of these fluorites for elements cerium (Ce_{58}) to lutetium (Lu_{71}) have been made; and the significance of their distribution in relation to petrographic and metallogenetic provinces is discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS, 1940.

Sir,—As Chairman of the Excursions Committee I should welcome any suggestion. Individual excursions will last from ten to twenty-one days. The immediate object is selection rather than organization.

E. B. Bailey

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11th March, 1938.