The nephrite, or Pounamu of the Maori, occurs as nodules and veins in the serpentine-carbonate and talc-carbonate rocks of the Griffin Range, Westland. Its commonest colour is a deep translucent green, but many different shades occur, depending on the percentage of ferrous silicate, on the presence or absence of flaws and cracks, and on included or infiltrated oxides of iron. Some of the dark-green nephrites are among the finest specimens of this mineral in existence. A pale whitish-green variety is also occasionally found. It is, however, rather opaque and never approaches in sheen the famous pale 'jades' of Turkestan.

Microscopically, the nephrite shows a foliated or confused aggregate of very fine fibres, the denseness of the fibrous mass being evidently the cause of its hardness.

It appears to have been originally formed by several modes: (1) by contact-action between peridotites and lime-bearing rocks, (2) by uralitization of pyroxenes, (3) by direct transformation of olivine into finely fibrous amphibole, (4) by deep-seated metamorphism of serpentine-talc-carbonate rock or its prototype.

These modes all suffice to produce the necessary chemical changes, but the transformation to true nephrite has involved, in addition, intense rock-pressure and movement. Thus has finally resulted the dense foliated or felted aggregate of fibres which characterizes nephrite.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CHRYSOLITE, CHRYSOTILE, AND KARYSTIOLITE.

Sir,—May I call the attention of your readers to the inconvenience caused by the similarity between the terms *chrysolite*, a synonym of olivine adopted by Dana as the name of the species, and *chrysotile*, given by Kobell (Jahrb. prakt. Chem., 1843, vol. xxx, p. 469) to the fibrous variety of serpentine. Twice within the last twelve months I have had occasion to use the term 'chrysotile' in publications (Proc. Geol. Assoc., 1908, vol. xx, p. 462; Bull. Imp. Inst., 1908, vol. vi, p. 394), and on both occasions it has been transformed into 'chrysolite'. In the case of the article in the Bulletin I was able to verify the fact that the right word appeared not only in the manuscript but in three successive proofs, and that it was only at the last moment that it was corrected (!) in every place where it occurred by a reader for the press. In the other case the proofs were not available for reference, but the manuscript was found to be correct.

The two words are a continual source of confusion to students, and I would suggest the revival in the form *karystiolite* of the original name of the mineral, *καρύστιος λίθος*, from Karystos, in Eubœa, where it was obtained (Min. Mag., 1906, vol. xiv, pp. 143–5). 'Karistia' was still in use in modern Greek in this sense towards the close of the eighteenth century (id., p. 147). The term 'marmor carystium' appears to have been applied by Pliny to serpentine rock quarried in the same locality (Nat. Hist., iv, 21, and xxxvi, 7).

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