

# CLAY MINERALS BULLETIN

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(Reprinted from the original cyclostyled issue).

This first number of the "Clay Minerals Bulletin" which contains summaries of the papers presented at the January meeting of the Group, appears somewhat later than we had hoped. We hope it will be possible to get subsequent numbers out more quickly, if only because it is our intention that the Bulletin should be a means of discussing, and assisting, *current* research. The Bulletin is not designed as a medium for the formal publication of papers, and is being sent only to members of the Group, and to a limited number of other people interested in clay minerals. We wish to take the opportunity of pointing out once again that no effort will be made to publish the Bulletin at regular intervals, or to publish a definite number of times in the year, but it will be sent out as occasion warrants.

## *Group News.*

During the present year, there has been a considerable number of activities with which the Group has been connected. Apart from the very successful meeting in January, arranged by the Group, there have been several other meetings on clay minerals which our members have been invited to attend.

The first meeting of the French *Groupe des Argiles* was held in Paris in March under the presidency of Prof. Orcel, and had an attendance of around forty persons, including Prof. Bernal from Great Britain, and Messrs Lepingle and Dosogne from Belgium. The Secretary of the new group is Mr Henin, who will be familiar to members of our own Group as head of the soils section of the Versailles Agronomic Station, and as the author of a communication at our London meeting. The French group differs from our own in being a research unit under the High-Polymer Committee of the *Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique*, but close contact is being maintained between the officers of the two groups, and information on meetings and communications will be exchanged.

In May, a meeting devoted to the Rheology of Clay Systems was held in Exeter. This was a joint meeting of the British Rheologists' Club and the Society of Chemical Industry, but our Group collaborated in the arrangements, and several of our members were present. Papers were read by G. Nagelschmidt (on clay mineral structures), D. M. C. MacEwan (on "interstratified" clay-organic structures) and H. L. Macey (on clay-liquid systems). The following day, a visit was paid to the works of the English China Clay Co. at St. Austell.

Immediately following this meeting, an important series of meetings, lasting a week, was held in Brussels under the auspices of the *Comite Belge pour l'Etude des Argiles*. Notices of this meeting were sent to our members, several of whom were present. The papers (about 50 in number) read at the Brussels meeting are being published in full, together with the discussions based on them, in the revue *Verre et Silicates Industriels*, beginning with the number for June-July. Our readers will see an announcement about this on another page. During the week, the Co.B.E.A. also arranged a private meeting in Brussels to consider the possibilities for international collaboration of clay research workers, to which the Chairman and Hon. Secretary of the Group were invited as well as representatives of the French Group, and of Holland and Switzerland. At our suggestion it was decided that a similar meeting will be arranged by our Group in London next year on the occasion of the 18th International Geological Congress, when we may reasonably hope to get representatives from a large number of countries. Those who were present at our London meeting will remember that promises of support and collaboration were given there by workers from France, Holland, Sweden, Spain and Portugal, so there can be no doubt about the widespread interest in the idea.

It is intended to hold a meeting in London next August (1948) under the general title *Mineralogy and Geology of Clays*. This meeting will probably be run in conjunction with the Geological Congress, and preliminary steps to this end have already been taken. We invite contributions, especially from workers in other countries, to this discussion. Those who think they will be able to contribute should let the Hon. Secretary know of their intention as soon as possible; they may use for this purpose the form which is sent with this publication. Excursions to be arranged in connection with the Congress will probably include visits to London brickworks, to the Redhill fuller's earth deposits, and to the Cornish China clay workings.

At the inaugural meeting in London last January a sub-committee was set up to consider the questions of archives of clay mineral data, and the formation of a collection of standard clay minerals. One meeting of this sub-committee has been held under the chairmanship of Dr Brindley, at which considerable progress was made with the questions, and another meeting will, it is hoped, be held shortly.

It is intended to hold the next Annual General Meeting of the Group near the end of this year, and details will be circulated to members in good time.

*Additions to Committee.*—Dr G. Nagelschmidt, of St. Austell, and Prof. A. L. Roberts, of Leeds, have been asked, and have agreed, to serve on the Committee of the Group.

G. W. BRINDLEY.

D. M. C. MACÉWAN.