

Rolfe and Jeffries may have attributed the 14 Å spacing after potassium treatment solely to chlorite whereas it may be either chlorite or vermiculite such as I described¹ or a mixture of both.

Dr W. A. Mitchell.—The identification of chlorite seems to require more confirmation. The usually accepted distinction between chlorite and vermiculite is on thermal stability, vermiculite collapsing from 14 Å to about 10 Å on heating to 300–400°C. while chlorites are stable up to temperature of 600°—*i.e.*, the 14 Å line is unchanged in *position* although changes in *intensity* are usually seen in this line and in its higher order reflections.

Dr B. N. Rolfe.—In reply to Mr Brown, the clays from the Appalachian Piedmont and from New York State were pre-treated in the same manner. I agree that the identification of chlorite needs confirmation but feel that the use of the term chlorite to describe a K-saturated 14 Å mica mineral represents our closest approach to its properties in the light of present knowledge. The dissimilarity between soil chlorites and mineralogical specimens should be recognised. This difference has been evident in further research on soil chlorites. Recently, I reported on the presence of a 7 Å soil chlorite (?) whose X-ray reflections, like those of kaolin, were destroyed by heating at 600°C. for two hours but whose d.t.a. curves ruled out the possibility of kaolin.

NOTES AND NEWS

Readers are invited to send brief items for this section; no charge is made for insertion. Send all such items to the Hon. Editor.

Scales for measurement of X-ray diffraction photographs. Direct-reading ångström scales, with allowance for film shrinkage have been made, and if there is sufficient demand for them, could be produced on dimensionally constant plastic, at a cost of about 40/-. At present they are only available for CuK α radiation with 9 cm diameter cameras, but scales for other camera diameters could be made with ease; for other radiations, less easily. These scales are accurate (divisions at intervals of about 0.5 mm. on the average) and can readily be interpolated to give 3 figure accuracy in the 1–2 Å region. Send enquiries to D. MacEwan, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts.