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Charles Maxwell

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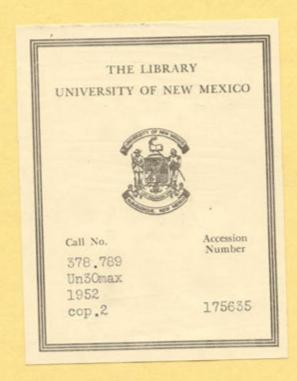
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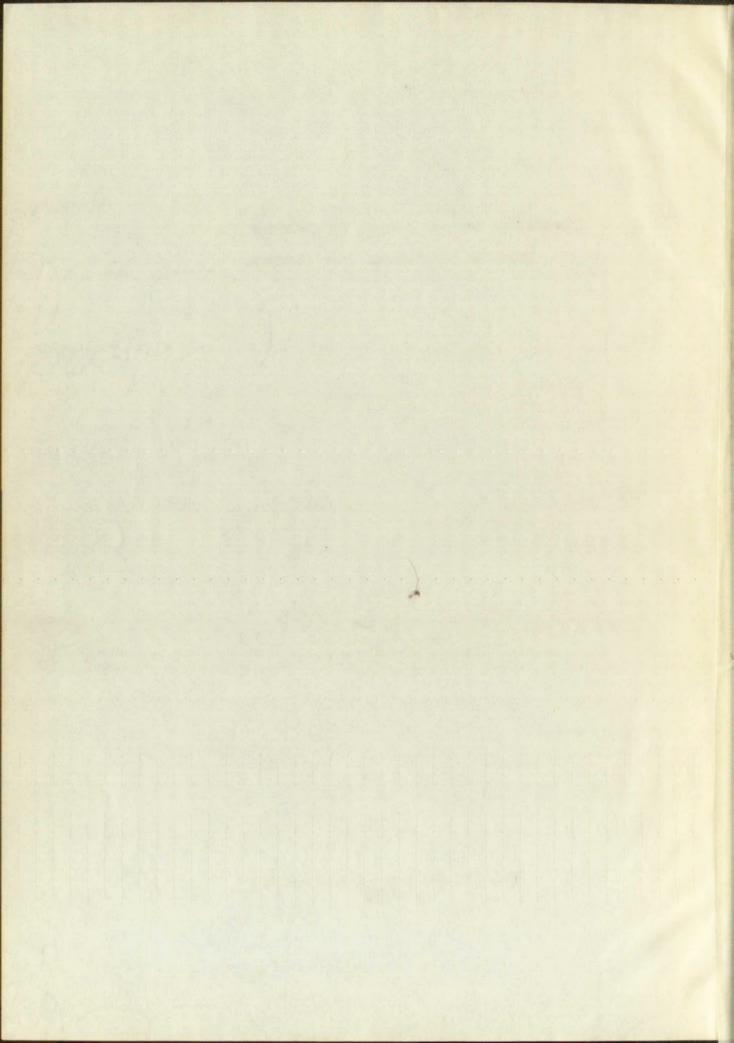
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Pleonaste Crystals from an Olivine Basalt, Caballo Mountains, New Mexico.

by Charles Maxwell

A thesis
in partial fulfillment
of the requirements
for the Degree of
Master of Science
in Geology

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This thesis, directed and approved by the candidate's committee, has been accepted by the Graduate Committee of the University of New Mexico in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

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Thesis committee

Carl W. Beck.
CHAIRMAN
V.6. Kelly

J. Paul Litzeninos

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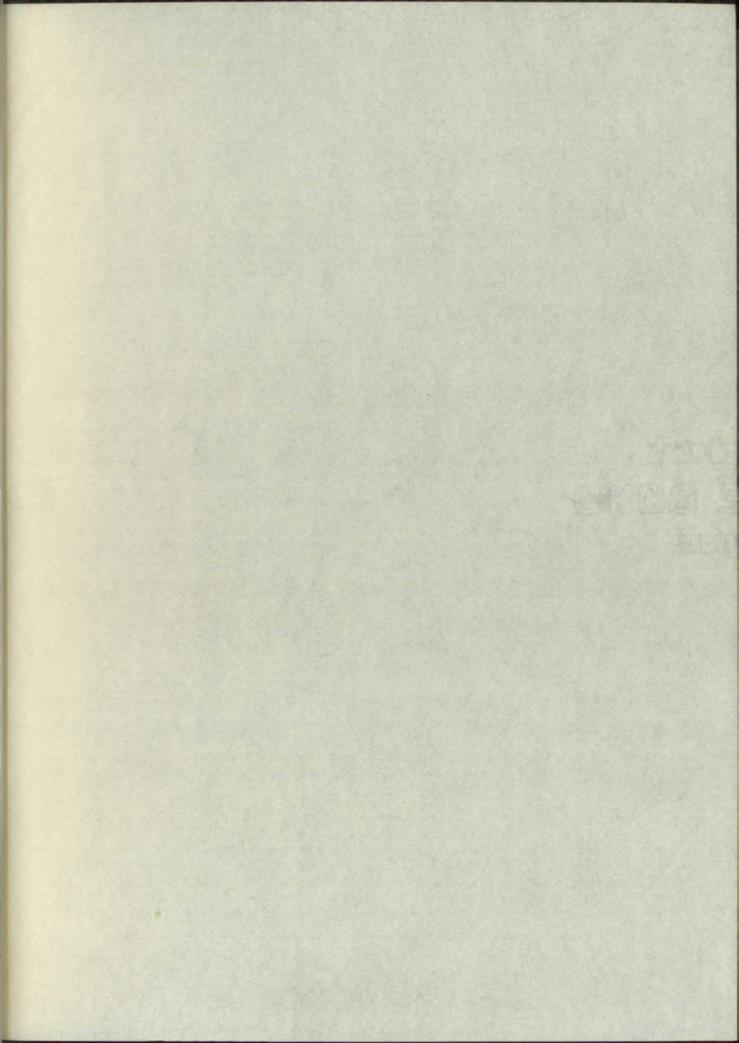
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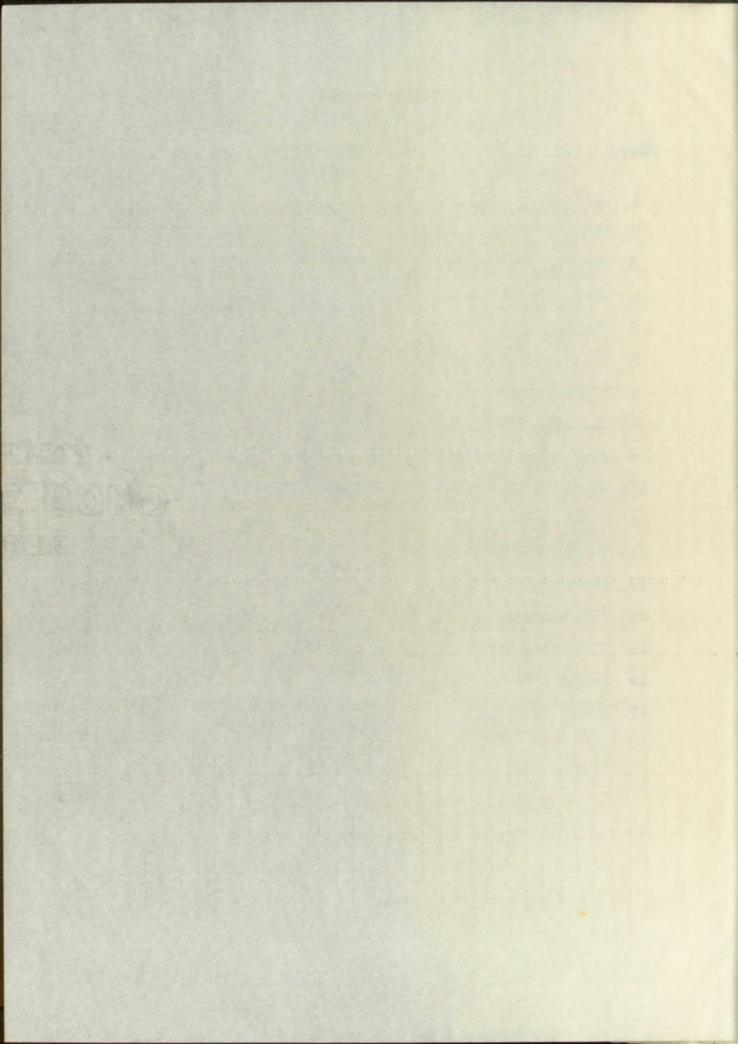
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INTRODUCTION

Location and Accessibility

The area included in this report comprises about 5 square miles, including parts of Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, and 24, T. 14 S., R. 4 W.; and parts of Sections 6, 7, 18, and 19, T. 14 S., R. 3 W. This area is about 2½ miles southeast of U. S. Highway 85 at the town of Truth or Consequences (Hot Springs), Sierra County, New Mexico, and about 2 miles south of State Highway 52 at the Elephant Butte Dam. A road which leads to Mescal Canyon turns off State Highway 52 at the bridge across the Rio Grande. By following the bed of Mescal Canyon and Salt Canyon (Pl. 2), a point within a mile of the flows can be reached. Mescal Canyon can be followed further to within half a mile of the eastern edge of the flows (Pls. 1, 2).

Physiography

The thesis area lies along the eastern base of North Ridge which forms the northern part of the Caballo Mountains. This ridge rises abruptly, about 1,500 feet, above the considerably dissected lowland on which the area is located. The lowland lies near the head of Mescal Canyon and is dissected into ridges and valleys with a relief of as much as 300 feet. The drainage is east and north into Mescal Canyon (Pl. 2) which joins the Rio Grande just below the Elephant Butte Dam.

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The area included in this regars comprises about 5 square miles, including parts of Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, and 24, T. 14 S., R. 4 W.; and parts of Sections 6, 7, 18, and 19, T. 14 S., R. 3 W. This area is about 26 miles southeast of U. S. Highway 85 at the town of Truth or Consequences (Not Springs), Sterrs County, New Mexico, and about 2 miles about of State Highway 52 at the Slephant Sutte Dam. A road which leads to Mescal Conyon turns off State Highway 52 at the Stephant following the bed of Hescal Canyon and Sale Canyon (Fig. 2), a point within a mile of the flows can be reached, Meanst Canyon can be followed further to within half a rile of the castern edge of the flows (Fig. 1, 2).

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Discovery and Utilization

In 1928, two prospectors found some very hard black crystals weathering out of basaltic igneous rocks at the north end of the Caballo Mountains. These crystals caused considerable excitement among the people who saw them; they were certain that the crystals were "black diamonds." Subsequent investigation proved they were not diamonds but a spinel which, with sufficient supply, might replace diamonds in some commercial uses. The financial returns would be small from such a venture and therefore the prospectors abandoned the project. The spinel crystals are scattered through a tough, fine-grained basaltic rock. Mining operations would be difficult, and the number of usable crystals would be small. The good specimens which were recovered were found on the surface of the ground on and near the flows. Even by extensive placer operations no great number of usable crystals could be recovered. At the present time, synthetic spinels with varying physical properties can be manufactured very cheaply. This, of course, makes any attempt at recovery of the natural crystals unfeasible today.

In 1946 the crystals came to the writer's attention, and were collected and identified as pleonaste. The crystals occur in a series of basic lava flows, and several probable dikes. Large crystals of spinel in a flow seemed to be incongruous so a study of the mineral and the flows was undertaken in 1951.

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Methods of Study

The mineral was identified by chemical analysis and optical and X-ray properties as pleonaste. The lava flows were studied in thin section with a petrographic microscope.

Subsequent to the beginning of this study similar occurrences of pleonaste were observed in several other localities, two of them a few miles to the north and northeast of the thesis area, and another in the Gabezon Peak area in north-central New Mexico. These localities are marked by stars on the index map (Pl. 1).

Acknowledgments

The writer wishes to gratefully acknowledge the help of the thesis committee, Dr. Carl W. Beck, Dr. J.

Paul Fitzsimmons, and Dr. Vincent C. Kelley; especial thanks are due Dr. Beck, under whose direction this thesis was written. The writer acknowledges the assistance of George Brunton in some of the field and laboratory work.

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Paul Pitzelmmons, and Dr. Vincent C. Relleys especial thanks are due Dr. Book, under whose direction this thesis was written. The writer schnowledges the exeletance of George Brunton in some of the field and laboratory work.

GENERAL GEOLOGY

The oldest rock in the mapped area is that of the Magdalena group of Pennsylvanian age. The Magdalena group makes up most of North Ridge immediately to the west of the area. The Magdalena group is about 1,200 feet thick, and consists dominantly of limestone with lesser amounts of shale and sandstone. The Magdalena is overlain by the Manzano group of Permian age, consisting of the Abo formation (550 feet thick), the Yeso formation (750 feet thick), and the San Andres formation (760 feet thick). The Abo is a red-brown formation consisting of shale and sandstone of continental origin. The Yeso consists of tannish-brown siltstone and sandstone, gypsum, and some limestone of both marine and continental origin. The San Andres formation is dominantly a gray marine limestone, but with lesser amounts of shale and sandstone. Disconformably overlying the Manzano group is the Dakota sandstone (250 feet thick). Mancos shale (400 feet thick), and the Mesaverde formation 2,500 feet thick), all of late Cretaceous age. The Dakota sandstone is composed of tan and buff sandstone with a small amount of shale. The Mancos is a greenish shale. The Mesaverde formation consists mostly of alternating sandstone and shale units with local beds of coal,

The above Paleozoic and Mesozoic formations are generally tilted eastwardly in the mapped area at steep to "Kelley, V. C., oral communication."

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moderate angles. In late Pliocene or early Pleistocene time the upturned edges of the older rocks were widely beveled by a pediment which encroached upon the range from the Jornada del Muerto Valley. The basaltic flows containing the pleonaste lie upon this erosion surface near its junction with the mountains (Pl. 2).

The northernmost flows all dip very gently to the east, and the contact between them and the underlying moderately dipping strata is remarkably level and uniform. The several large bodies of lava in this section are fairly uniform in thickness and attitude. They are composed of four separate flows, with a total thickness of about twenty feet—the first flow is three feet thick; the second, six feet; the third, seven feet; and the fourth, about four feet. The top flow is eroded from most of the area, and much of the third flow is gone. The two bottom flows seem to be present in all of the northern outcrops.

In the southern section of the mapped area, in the smaller patches of lava, the contact with the underlying sediments is very irregular and the flows themselves range greatly in thickness and attitude. A number of gentle folds in the lava were apparently caused by a post-flow folding.

An old pediment covers the northernmost flow and a similar remnant covers part of the sediments in the southern part of the area. The present stream gradient is considerably lower and steeper than these old remnants of dep-

moderate angles. In late Filocome or early Heistocome that the uptured edges of the older rocks were widely beveled by a pediment which encroached upon the range from the Jornade del Muerte Velley. The beseiths flows containing the placements its upon this eventor surface rest its junction with the mountains (FL. 2).

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osition which were largely removed and deeply eroded by the rejuvenated streams (Pl. 2).

PLATE 1

Index Map of New Mexico

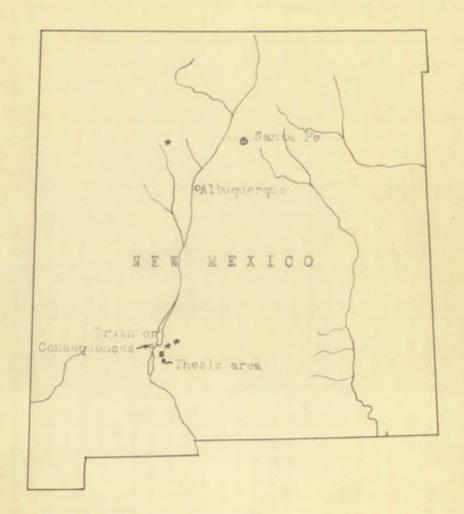
Stars represent known pleonaste localities outside of thesis area.

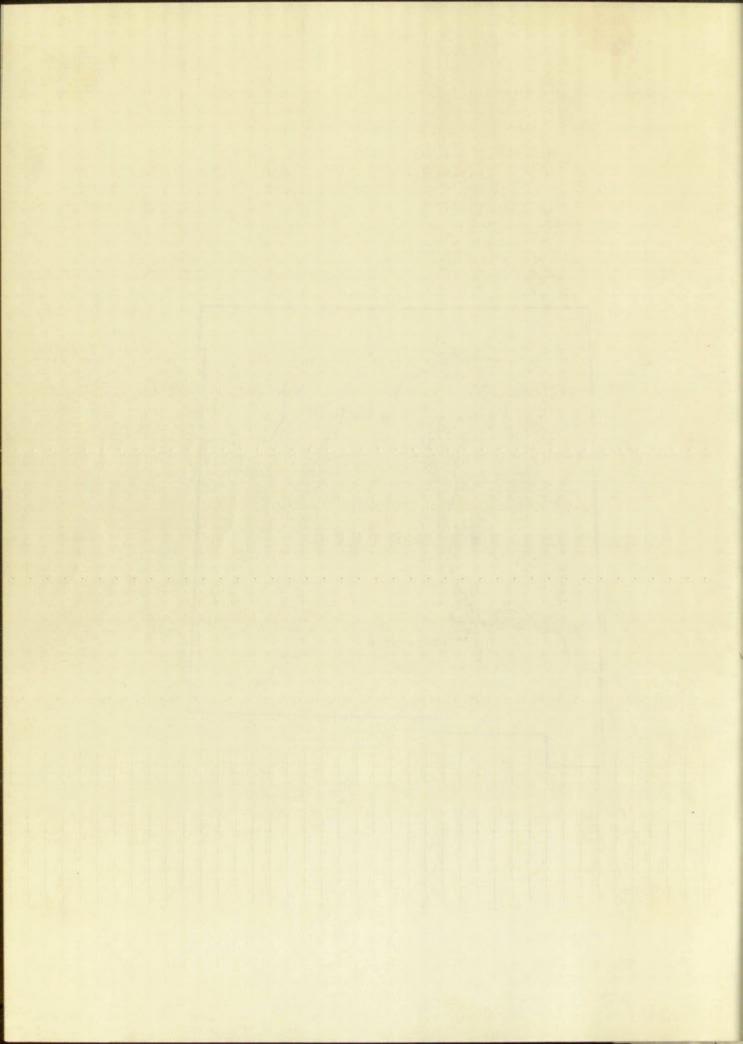
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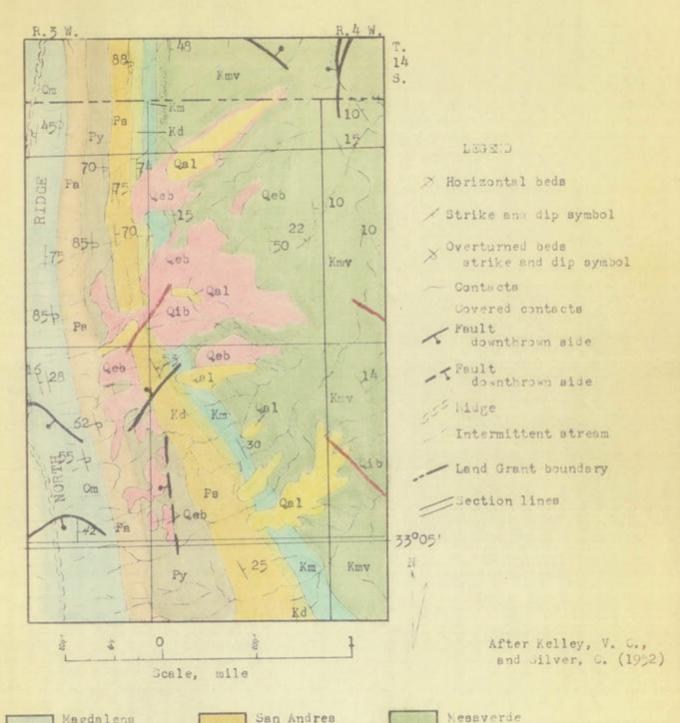
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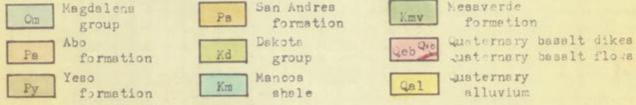
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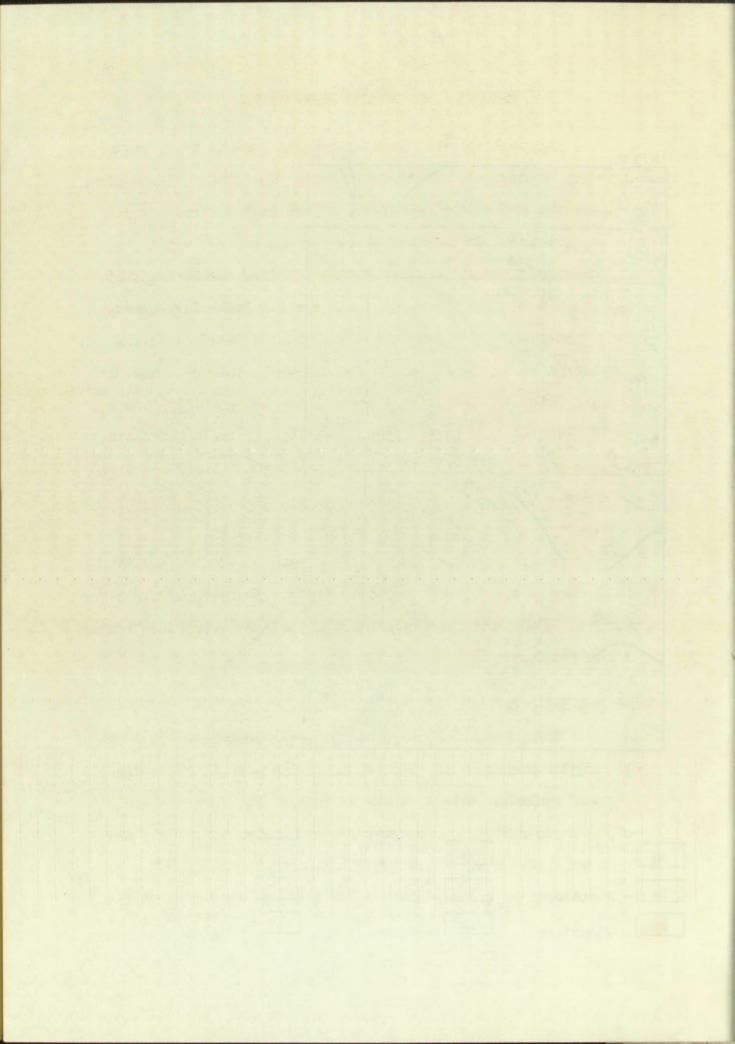




GEOLOGIC MAP OF THESIS AREA







Samples of the flow rocks were taken at chosen intervals throughout the thesis area. No attempt was made to delineate and correlate the various flow layers in one part of the area with the flow layers in other parts. A great number of samples were taken; studied under magnifications of 6 to 40 diameters; and divided into five groups on the basis of the appearance of the weathered surface, fresh surface, texture, and those minerals large enough to be seen. Thin sections were made from representative samples of each of the five types, and studied with a petrographic microscope. The modes, or percentages of the mineral components, were calculated by use of a Wentworth stage on the microscope. The linear traverses on a Wentworth stage are proportional to the surface areas, which in turn are proportional to the volumes of the constituent minerals. Following are macroscopic and microscopic descriptions of each sample:

Sample 1 (Pl. 3, Fig. 1).

This rock is dense, dark gray, porphyritic, with phenocrysts composed of yellowish olivine, a black amphibole, and spinel. The groundmass ranges from very fine grained to aphanitic. The phenocrysts range in size from less than 1 mm to as large as 20 mm. in diameter. The surface weathers to a gray-buff color with an earthy appearance.

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Thin-section studies showed a groundmass of glass and unidentifiable crystallites around randomly oriented, twinned plagioclase laths, giving the rock a felty or hyaloophitic texture. Many small grains of augite and hornblende occur in the groundmass, and some of the larger grains show a core of olivine. Many small grains of an opaque mineral, probably magnetite, are usually associated with the olivine, augite and hornblende grains. Large euhedral and subhedral olivine phenocrysts have a corona of serpentine, and most of the cracks contain serpentine (Pl. 7, Fig. 1). Small grains, usually single crystals, of anhedral nepheline occur near the rims of the olivine phenocrysts, and occasionally scattered through the groundmass. The occasional phenocrysts of augite are dark greenish-brown with a darker brown pleochroic halo of hornblends. The spinel occurs as large suhedral and subhedral grains with sharp boundaries, dark emerald green in the center and lighter green around the edges. They exhibit two prominent directions of parting at angles of 90 degrees (Pl. 7, Fig. 2). The mode of this rock is given in table 1.

In Johannsen's classification, sample would be 3316E, which is unnamed. The hypabyssal equivalent (3316H) is madeirite (Johannsen, Vol. IV, pp. 69, 73-74).

Sample 2 (Pl. 3, Fig. 2; Pl. 4, Figs. la, 2).

This rock is fine grained, porphyritic, vesicular, dark gray-brown, with phenocrysts of black pyroxene, spinel

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Semple 2 (Fi. 3, Fig. 2; Fi. 1, Figs. 1s; 2).

This rook is fine preimed, nomphyrible, westerland
derk grey-brown, with phenoscrete of black growner, with

and yellow-brown olivine. The phenocrysts range in size from less than 1 mm to 20 mm in diameter. The vesicles are small, irregular, and elongate in one direction. This rock weathers to a buff-colored, earthy, porous mass.

Thin section studies showed a groundmass of crystallites and microlites of plagioclase around randomly oriented, twinned plagioclase laths, similar to sample 1.

Many small grains of augite and hornblende occur in the groundmass, some with cores of clivine. Repheline is common, and there are minor amounts of riebeckite, clinoenstatite, aegirine, analcime and biotite. The nepheline is found in large aggregates, usually adjoining the clivine phenocrysts, and is composed of small anhedral grains with a random orientation. A small percentage is in single grains in the groundmass (Pl. 9, Figs. 1, 2). The minor accessories are in small grains scattered through the groundmass. The mode of this rock is given in table 1.

In Johannsen's classification, sample 2 would be the effusive equivalent of kylite (3320P) (Johannsen, Vol. IV, p. 226), which would be similar to Lehman's atlantite (3320E) (Johannsen, Vol. IV, p. 240).

Sample 3 (Pl. 4, Figs. 1b, 1c; Pl. 5, Figs. 1, 2).

This rock is medium to dark brown, porphyritic, vesicular, fine grained to aphanitic, with small phenocrysts of clivine and spinel and an occasional phenocryst of pyroxens. There are a few large, subsdral crystals of spinel in

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Cample 3 (FI. 1. Figs. 10, 12: 11. 5. Figs. 1. Fig. 1.

this rock (Pl. 13, Figs. 1, 3b; Pl. 14, Figs. 1b, 1c; Pl. 15, Figs. 1, 2).

Thin sections of this rock show textures and minerals similar to those of sample 1. The augite and hornblende are more prominent and more widely scattered through the groundmass; the phenocrysts are, in general, smaller and the clivine shows a greater amount of alteration to serpentine and hornblende on the larger phenocrysts, and to hornblende and augite on the smaller grains. There is a greater percentage of larger grains of opaque minerals. There is also a higher percentage of glass.

The mode of this rock is given in table 1.

Johannsen's classification of this rock would be 3316E, the same as sample 1.

Samples 4 and 5 are of this same rock at different orientations. The descriptions and modes are the same.

Sample 6 (Pl. 4, Fig. 1d; Pl. 6, Fig. 1).

This sample is a gray and light brown rock which weathers to a mottled rich brown and light gray; otherwise it is the same as sample 3.

The thin sections are identical with those of samples 3, 4, and 5.

Sample 7 (Pl. 6, Fig. 2).

This sample is a dark brown, vesicular, aphanitic to fine grained rock which grades into scoria in places.

The scoria weathers to a medium brown, and the vesicular

this rook (Pl. 13, Pies. 1, 3e; Pl. 15; Higs, 11s, 1o: 71; 15, Pigs. 1, 2).

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Sample 6 (Pl. 4, Pig. 1d; Pl. 5, Fig. 19,

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Sample 7 (Pl. 5, Pig. 2);

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rock weathers to a medium and light earthy brown.

Thin sections show a groundmass composed largely of very small laths and microlites of labradorite, crystallites of plagioclase (?), and glass. Augite and hornblende occur as dark brown, shadow-like masses, altering to serpentine. Olivine occurs in the largest grains, most of which are altered to serpentine and hornblende-augite, with only small residual cores of elivine. A few very small irregular grains of brownish-green spinel, and many small opaque grains are scattered through the groundmass. The mode and classification of this rock is given in table 1.

Mode and Classification of the Flow Rocks

Minerals	Samples			
	1	2	3	7
Labradorite Nepheline Augite Hornblende Olivine	30.8 1.2 12.4 6.2 32.0	23.3 7.3 5.7 4.3 30.8	19.7 3.3 18.2 7.0 21.4	24.3 2.1 19.3 10.8 15.3
Opacites Spinel Serpentine Accessories Glass Total	1.0 1.0 7.1 6.4 1.8	2.1 1.1 6.4 16.0 2.0	2.6 1.3 13.0 10.5 3.0	10.8 0.3 9.0 3.0 4.0
Classification	3316	3320	3316	3316

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edimbardel anticologi lugite obsettants antvilo	30.8 12.h 6.2 6.2 32.0	23.3 7.3 5.7 5.7 5.8 8.08	10.7 7.01 2.0 7.0 7.0 7.0	6. ds 6. ds 6. ds 7. ds
	1.0 1.0 7.1 8.1 1.8 1.8	2.1 1.1 0.0 2.0 2.0 2.0	2.6 10.5 10.5 2.0	8.01 6.0 8.0 8.4 9.4 9.40
noiveolileus!	3316	USEE	SIE	

Photographs of Basalt Samples

Figure 1. Photograph of specimen of basalt, sample 1. :X1.
S m spinel crystal.

Figure 2. Photograph of specimen of basalt, sample 2. :X\frac{1}{2}.
S = spinel crystal.

Photographs of Besalt Samples

Pigure 1. Photograph of change 1. IX1. IXI. eample 1. IXI. Explosion of the control of the contr

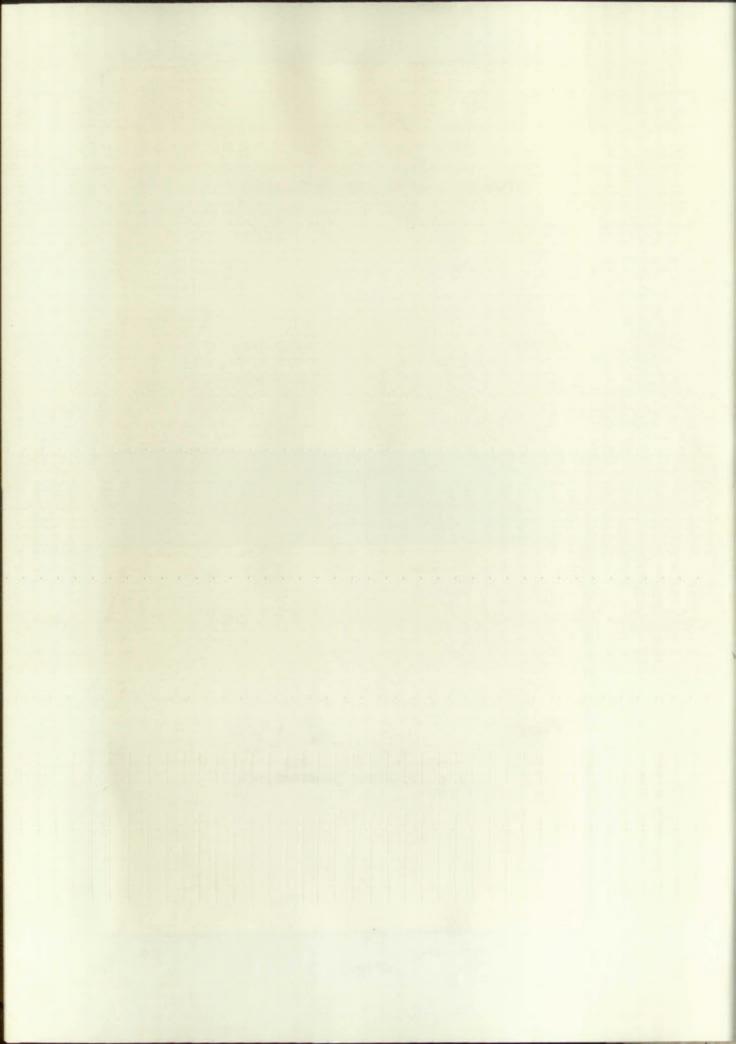
Figure 2. Photograph of specimen of baselt, nample 2. :Xg. : Se apinel crystal.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Photographs of Basalt Samples

Figure 1. Photograph of specimens of basalt. a z sample 2, b and c z sample 3, d z sample 6.

Figure 2. Photograph of specimen of basalt, sample 2. *X1.

S = spinel crystal.

P = pyroxene phenocryst.

PLATE &

Photographs of Baselt Samples

Figure 1. Photograph of specimens of baselt, a z sample 2, b and c z sample 3, d z sample 6.

Figure 2. Photograph of specimen of basalt, sample 2. IXL. S = spinel orystal.
P = pyroxene phenograph.



Figure 1

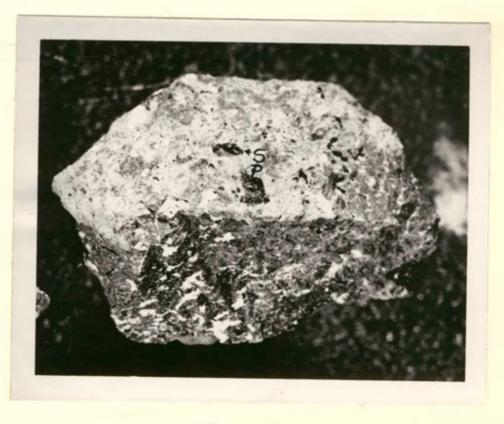
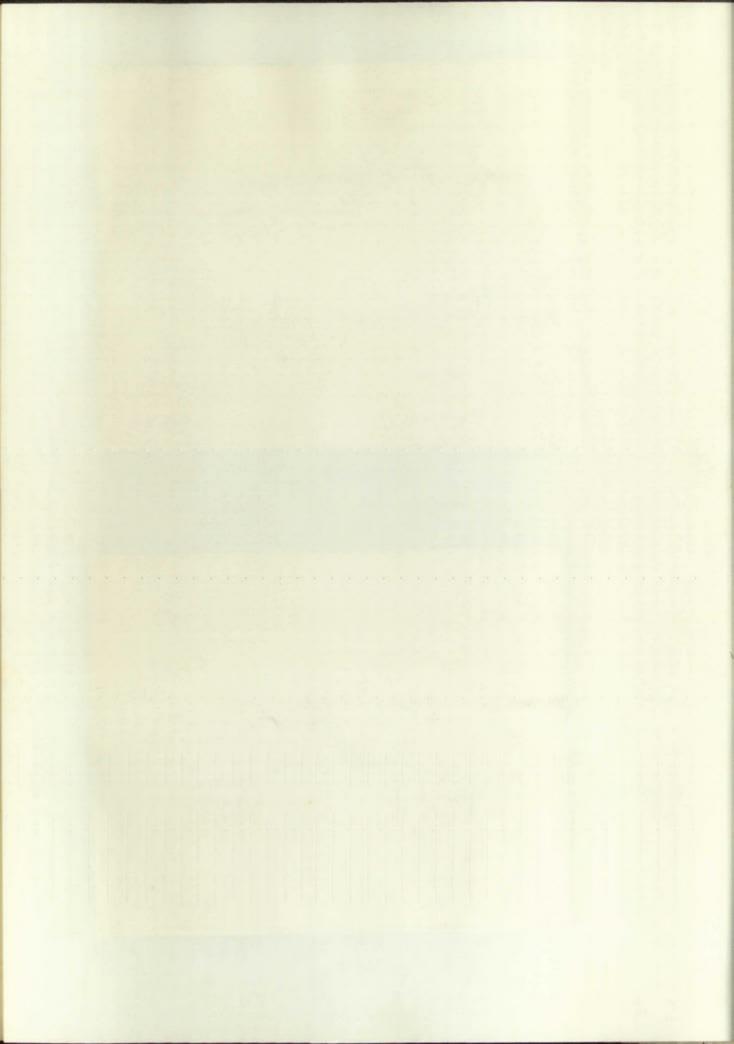


Figure 2



Photographs of Basalt Samples

Figure 1. Photograph of specimen of basalt, sample 3. *X1.
S = spinel crystal.

Figure 2. Photograph of specimen of basalt, sample 3. :X1.

Photographs of Basalt Samples

Figure 1. Photograph of specimen of . IX1. 1X1. 1X1. 2X1. 2X1.

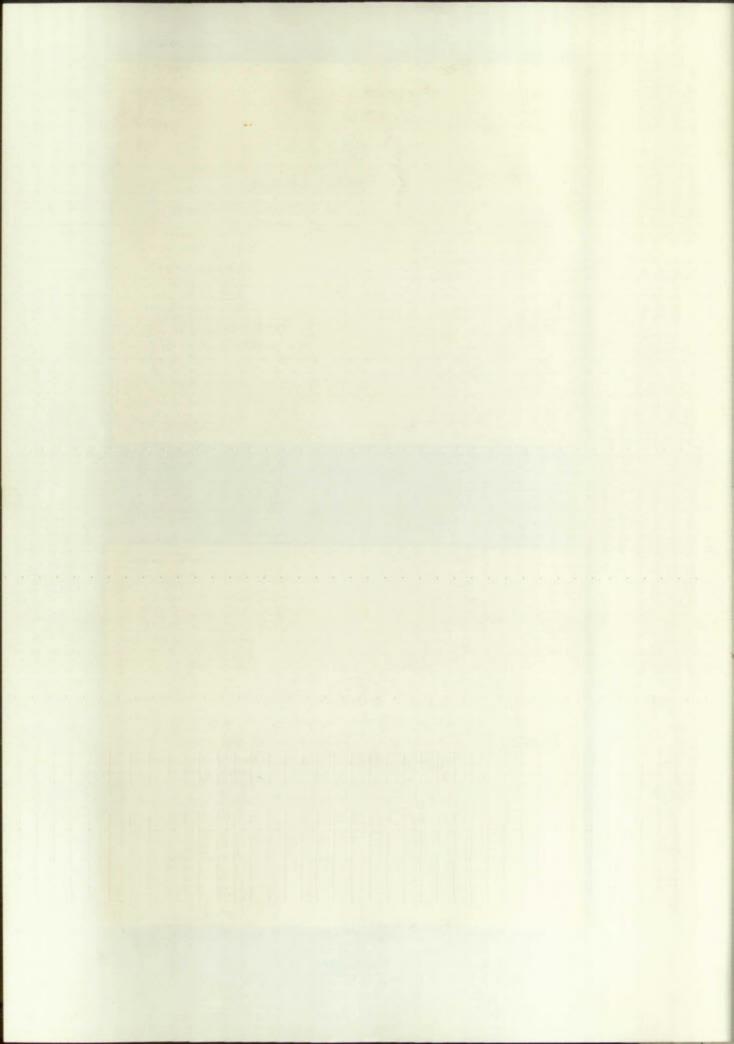
Pigure 2. Photograph of specimen of basalt, sample 3. 1X1.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Photographs of Basalt Samples

Figure 1. Photograph of specimen of basalt, sample 6. :X1.
S = spinel crystal.

Figure 2. Photograph of specimen of basalt, sample 7. :X1.

Photographs of Basalt Samples

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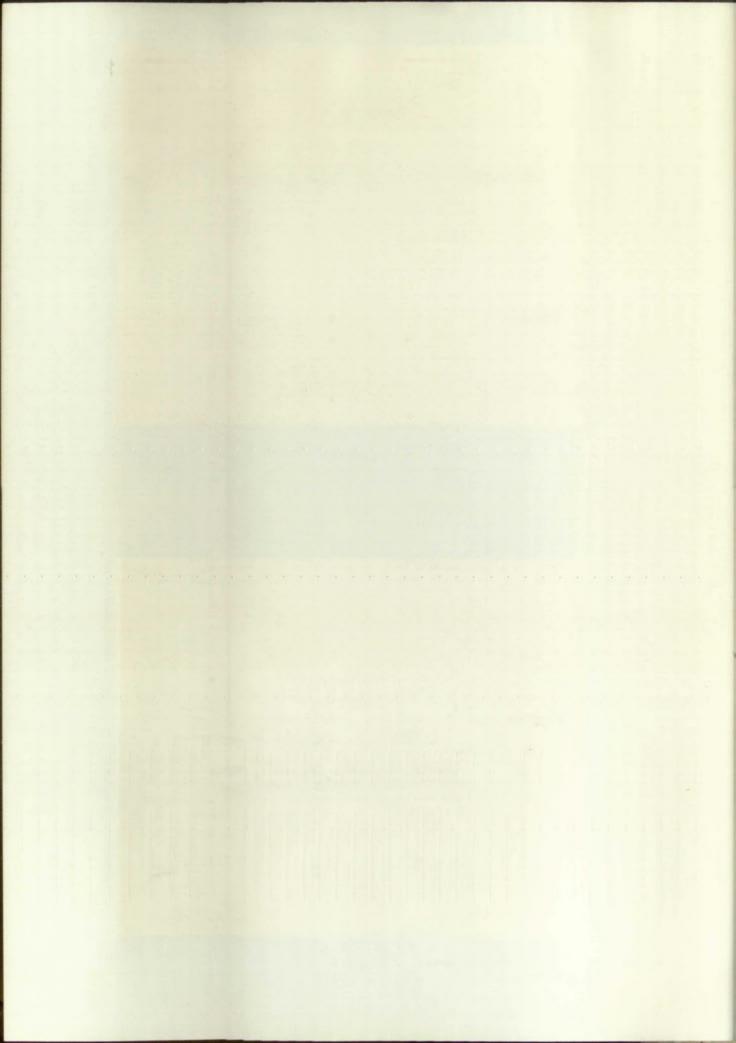
Pigure 2. Photograph of specimen of basalt, sample 7. IXI.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Photomicrographs of Thin Sections

Figure 1. Photomicrograph of thin section from sample 1. Plane light. :X100.

Os olivine crystal showing serpentinization.

Figure 2. Photomicrograph of thin section from sample 2. Plane light. 1X35.

Spinel crystal showing two colors and cubic parting.

PLATE ?

Photomicrographs of Thin Sections

Figure 1. Photomicrograph of thin mection from sample 1. Pland light. 12100.

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0 a pliving orystal showing serpentinisation.

Figure 2. Photomicrograph of thin section from sample 2. Plane light. 1X35. Spinel crystal showing two colors and cubic parting.

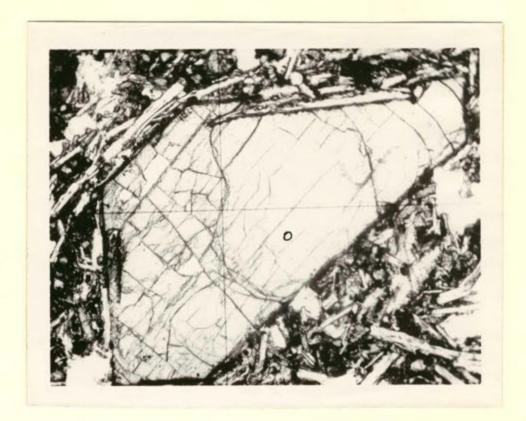


Figure 1

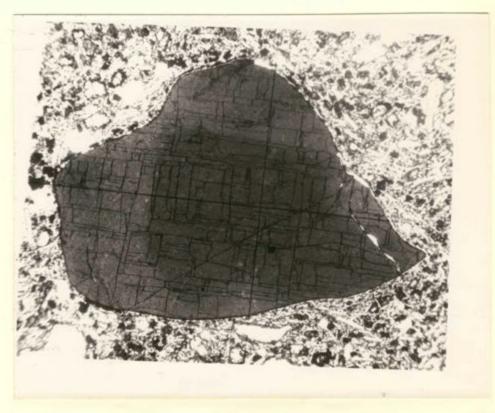


Figure 2



Photomicrographs of Thin Sections

Figure 1. Photomicrograph of thin section of basalt sample showing typical arrangement of minerals. Plane light. :X200.

0 = olivine.
P = plagioclase lath.

Figure 2. Same as figure 1, crossed nicols.

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Photosicrographs of Thin Sections

Figure 1. Photomicrograph of thin section of basalt sample showing typical arrangement of minerals. Plane light. :X200.

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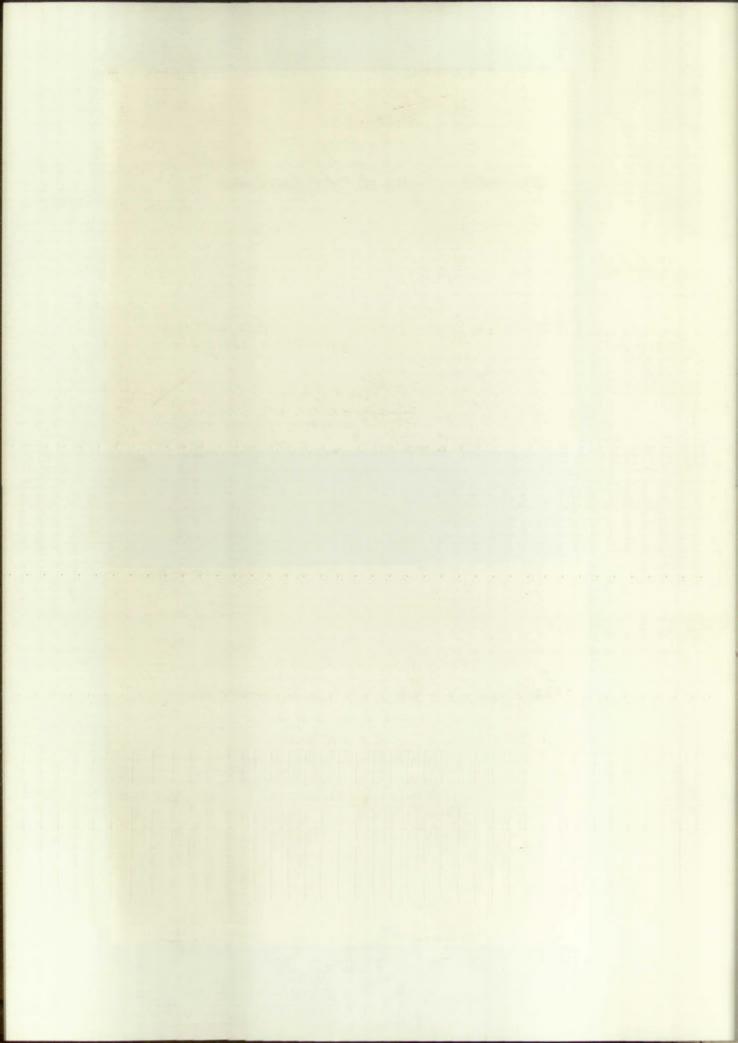
Figure 2. Same as figure 1, crossed nicols.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Photomicrographs of Thin Sections

Pigure 1. Photomicrograph of thin section from sample 2. Plane light. #X100.

S = spinel.

O = olivine.

N = nepheline.

Se = serpentine.

Figure 2. Same as figure 1, crossed nicols.

Photomicrographs of Thin Sections

Pigure 1. Photosdorograph of this section from sample 2. Plane light.

1X100.

5 w spinel.

0 w ollvine.

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Se w serpentine.

Figure 2. Same as figure 1, orossed nicols.

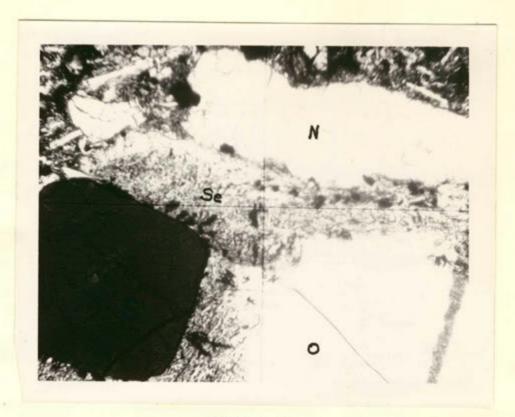
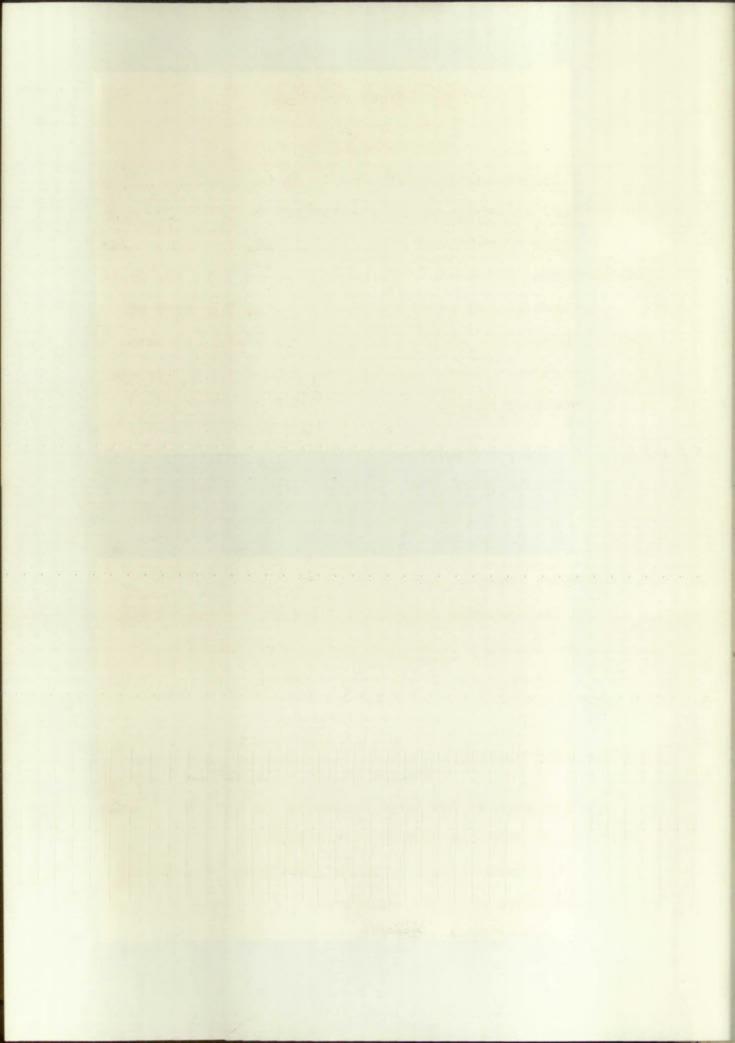


Figure 1



Figure 2



MINERALOGY OF PLEONASTE

Crystallography

Isometric, hexoctahedral. It is found usually in octahedrons, sometimes with dodecahedral truncations, rarely with cubic truncations (Pls. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14). Most specimens are malformed, with rounded edges (Pl. 12, Fig. 2); some have pitted surfaces (Pl. 13, Fig. 1); most of them are incomplete crystals. Twins are rare, but when found are spinel twins; that is, the twin axis is the axis of three-fold symmetry.

Physical Properties

The color is dark green and brown; diaphaneity, nearly opaque; fracture, conchoidal; tenacity, brittle; luster, dull on external surface, vitreous to splendent on fractures; streak, white; hardness, 8.

The specific gravity of the mineral was determined with a Jolly balance, which measures the relative weight of the mineral in air and in water. The equation used is:

Specific Gravity = Weight in Air
Weight in Air - Weight in Water
The specific gravity for this pleonaste ranges from 3.8280 to 3.8839 and averages 3.8563 (Table 2).

The theoretical specific gravity of a crystal may be calculated from the equation:

Density = Weight Volume

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TABLE 2

Specific Gravities of Several Pleonaste Crystals

Crystal	Measurements				
No.	lst	2nd	3rd	Average	
1	3.8491	3.8508	3.8390	3.8463	
2	3.8849	3.8757	3.8647	3.8751	
3	3.8250	3.8190	3.8400	3.8280	
4	3.8566	3.8579	ana	3.8572	
3	3.8774	3.8905	99 40 CH	3.8839	
6	3.8384	3.8308	-	3.8346	
7	3.8417	-	****	3.8417	
0	3.8737	-	DES ASSESS	3.8737	
9	3.8656	-	AND ADD TO	3.8656	
			Average s	3.8563	

				*08
PARRYE	0005.8	BORRE .	ESONS.E	
2218.0	3.00.8		e388.6	
BUSE.	00 15.2		3,6250	
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SETTERS	-		1818.8	
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Drawings of Ideal Crystals

Figure 1. Drawing of an ideal octahedron. Clinographic projection.

Figure 2. Drawing of an ideal octahedron with dodecahedral truncations.
Clinographic projection.

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Figure 1. Drawing of an ideal octahedron.

Figure 2. Drawing of an ideal octahedron with dedecahedral truncations.

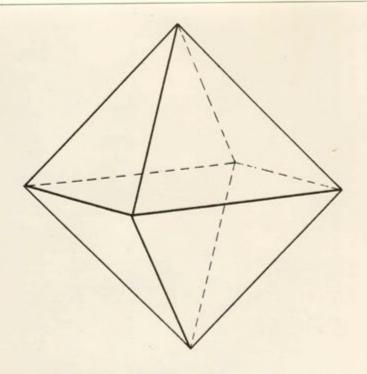


Figure 1.

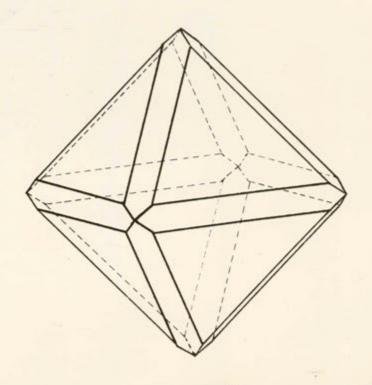
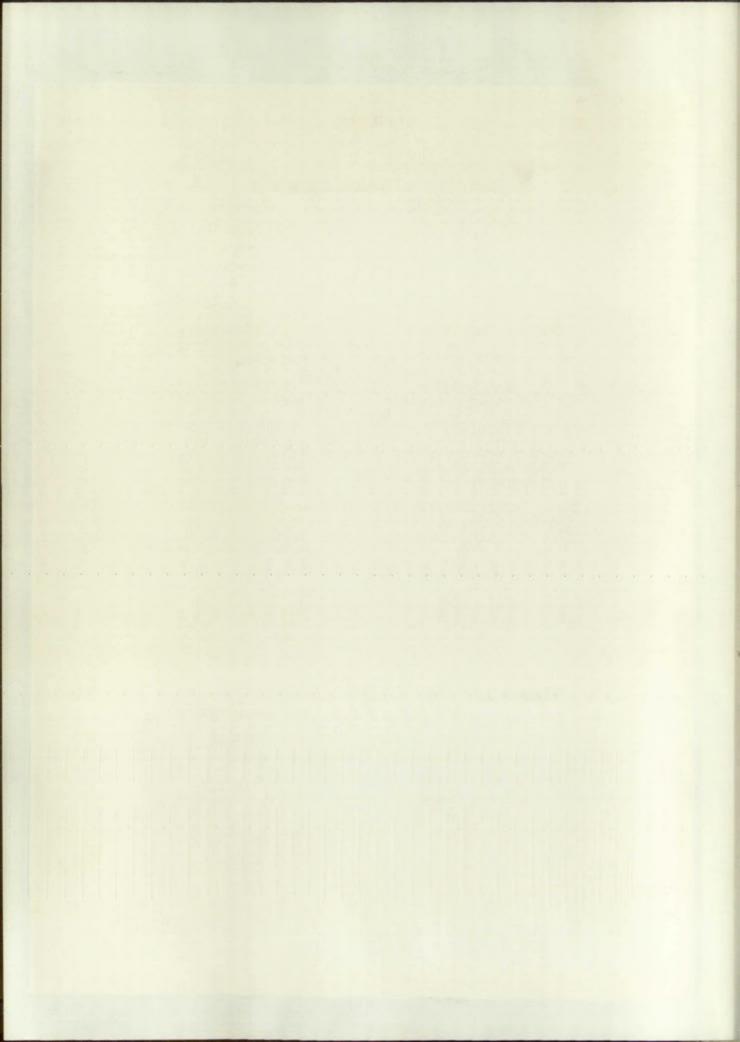


Figure 2.



Drawings of Ideal Crystals

Figure 1. Drawing of an ideal octahedron with dodecahedral truncations.
Clinographic projection.

Figure 2. Portrait of an actual spinel crystal in an ideal drawing.

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Drawings of Ideal Crystals

Figure 1. Drawing of an ideal octahedron with dodecahedral truncations.
Glinographic projection.

Figure 2. Portrait of an actual apinel orgules.

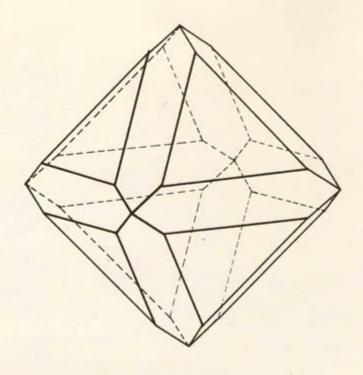


Figure 1.

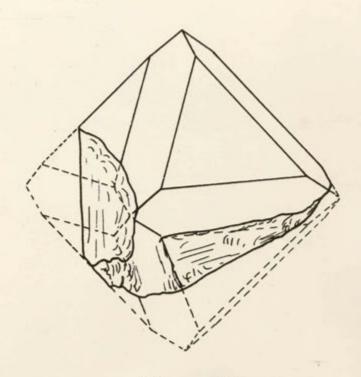
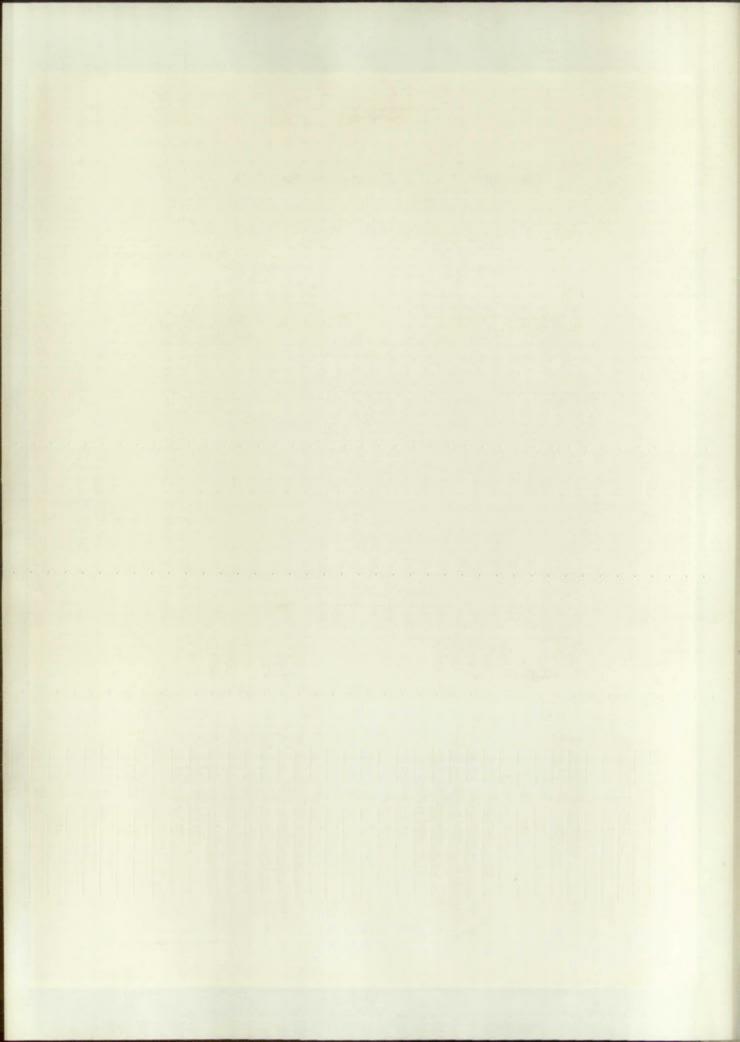


Figure 2.



Photographs of Pleonaste Crystals

Figure 1. Photograph of pleonaste crystals from basalt. Scale in inches on photograph.

Figure 2. Photograph of pleonaste crystals from basalt. :Xh

PLATE IZ

Photographs of Pleomaste Crystals

Figure 1. Photograph of pleomaste crystals from basalt. Sogle in inches on photograph.

Figure 2. Photograph of pleomaste crystals from baselt. IXL



Figure 1

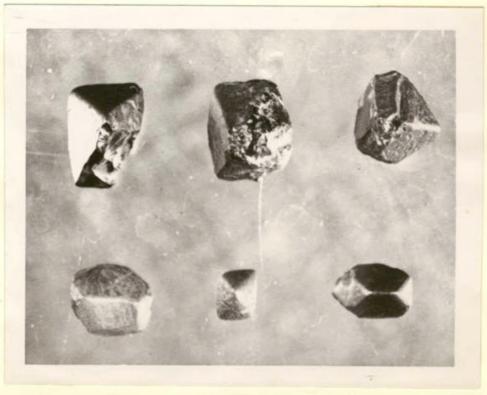
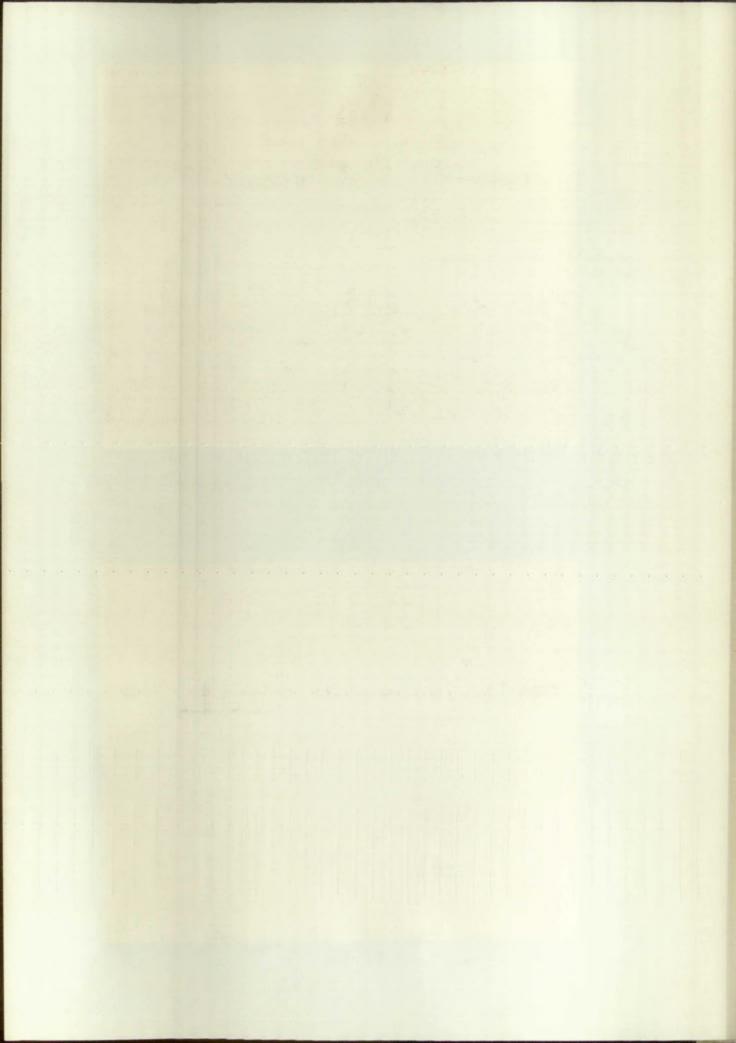


Figure 2



Photographs of Pleonaste Crystals

Figure 1. Photograph of pleonaste crystal showing pitted surface. :X2.

Figure 2. Photograph of pleonaste crystal from basalt. :X3.

Figure 3. Photograph of four pleonaste crystals (a, b, c, and d) from basalt. :X2.



Photographs of Pleonaste Crystals

Figure 1. Photograph of pleonaste crystal showing pitted surface. :X2.

Figure 2. Photograph of pleonaste crystal from basalt. :X3.

Figure 2

Figure 3. Photograph of four pleonaste crystals (a, b, c, and d) from basalt. :X2.

Photographs of Pleonaste Crystals

Pigure 1. Photograph of pleomate drystal surface. IX2.

Figure 2. Photograph of pleomate crystal from bessit. :X3.

Figure 3. Photograph of four pleonaste orystala (a, b, c, and d) from basalt.



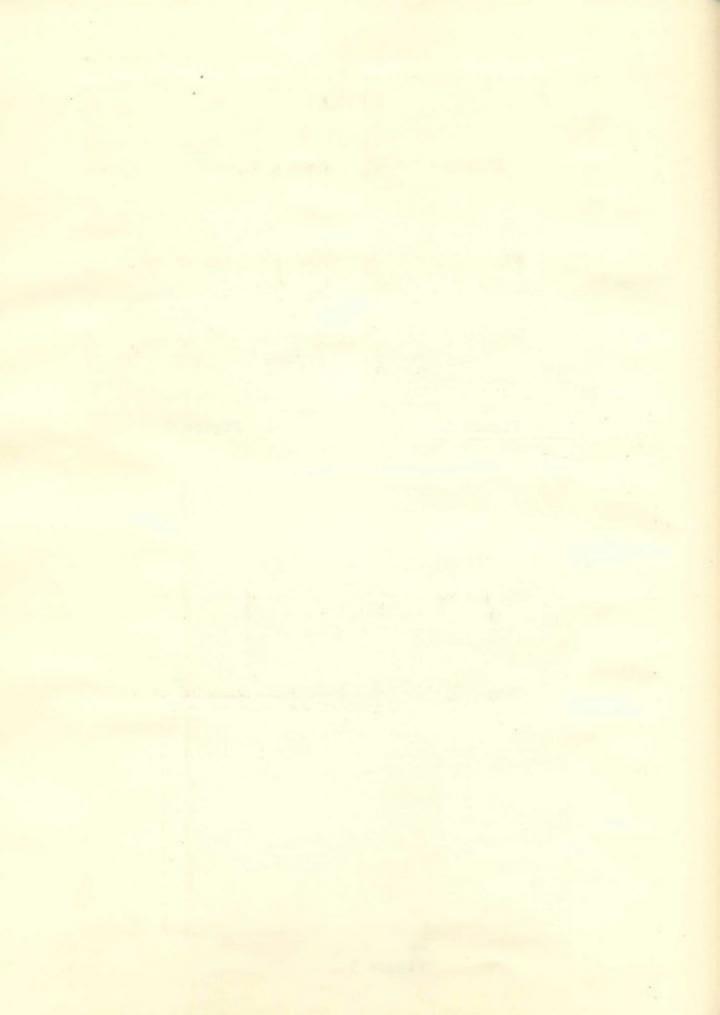
Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Photographs of Pleonaste Crystals

Figure 1. Photograph, enlargement of fig. 3a, Pl. 13. :X4.

Figure 1 Figure 2

Figure 2. Photograph, enlargement of fig. 3c, Pl. 13. : Xh.

Figure 3. Photograph of three pleonaste crystals from basalt (a, b, and c). :X1.

Figure 4. Photograph, enlargement of fig. 3a above. :X4.

PLATE IL

Photographs of Pleonacte Orystals

Figure 1. Photograph, enlargement of fig.

Figure 2. Photograph, enlargement of fig.

Figure 3. Photograph of three pleomaste orystals from baselt (z, b, and c). :Xl.

Figure h. Photograph, enlargement of fig.



Figure 1



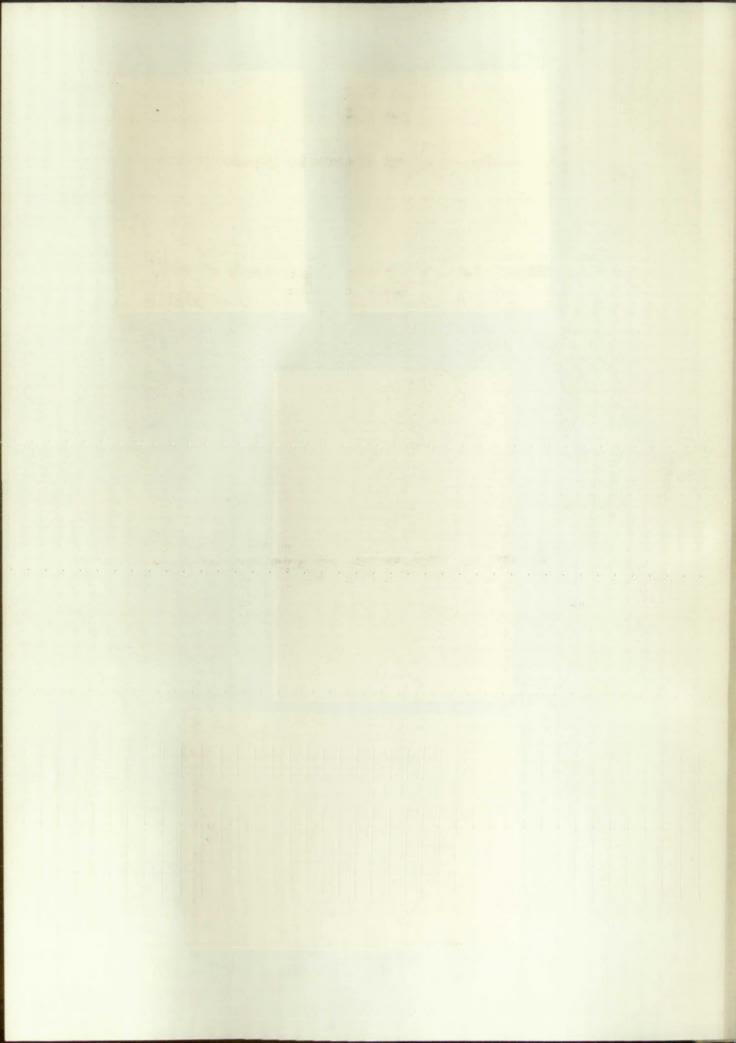
Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Photographs of Pleonaste Crystals

Figure 1. Photograph, enlargement of fig. 3b, Fl. 14. :X4.

Figure 2. Photograph, enlargement of fig. 3c, Pl. 14. :X4.

PLATE IS

Photographs of Plasmaste Crystals

Figure 1. Photograph, enlargement of fig.

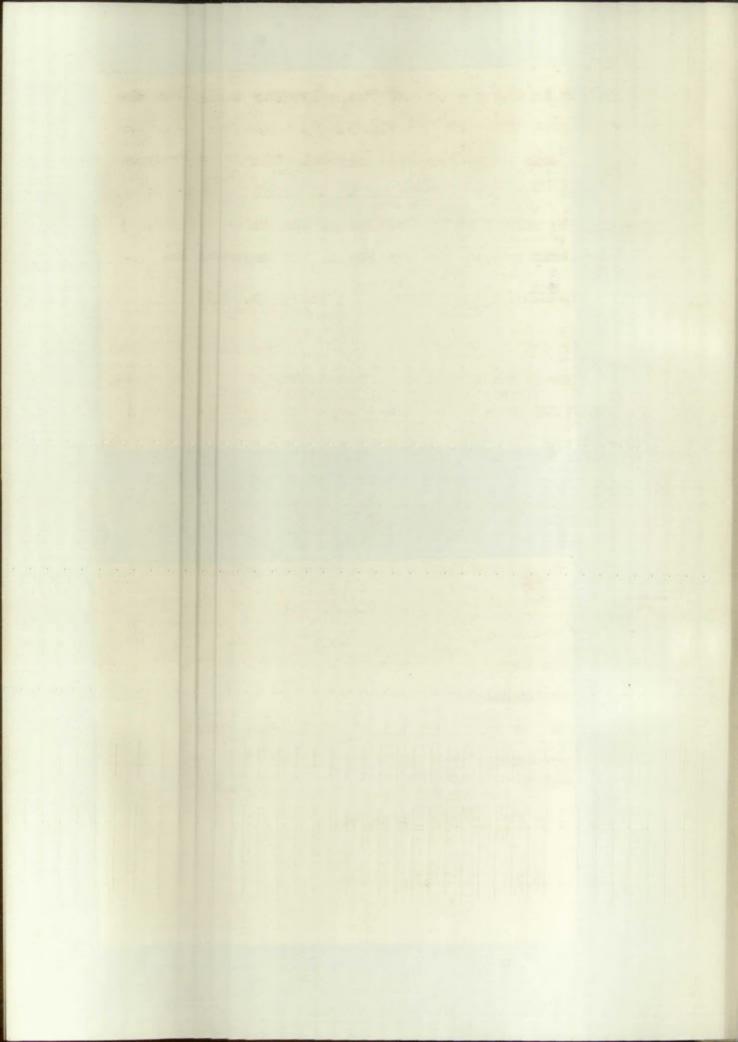
Vigure 2. Photograph, enlargement of fig.



Figure 1



Figure 2



The weight is the product of the molecular weight of the chemical unit of which the crystal is composed times the number of such units per unit crystal, times the factor 1.649 x 10⁻²⁴ which changes units of atomic weight into grams. The volume is the volume of the unit crystal. In the isometric system the density of the crystal is:

$$\rho = n \times 1.649 \times 10^{-24}$$
 (Davey, p. 35)

where M is the molecular weight, ao is the edge of the unit cube in centimeters, and n is the number of points associated with the unit cube in the crystal lattice. n is l for a simple cube, 2 for a body-centered cube, h for a face-centered cube, and 8 for a diamond cube.

ao was determined from X-ray powder photographs of the mineral by the equation:

nd = 2d sin 0 (Buerger, p. 98)

where n is the order of the reflection, λ is the wave length of the X-ray beam, d is the atomic spacing (a₀), and θ is the angle the reflected X-ray beam makes with the plane of the crystal.

M was determined in the following way:

M = percentage molecular weights of FeO + MgO + Fe203+ Al203

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201 m 71.85 x 33.67 m 31.7h

SD.EE = AZ.VI ASE.OB = OBE

M = 158.88

Substituting figures in the equation on page 29, we get:

The calculated specific gravity, 3.9144, compares favorably with the average measured specific gravity, 3.8563.

Structural Crystallography

The mineral spinel is the type mineral for the spinel group, all of which have the same isometric atomic structures. For spinel the structure may be described as having the 0 atoms arranged on a face-centered cubic lattice with the Mg atoms lying in the center of tetrahedral groups of four atoms, while the Al atoms are each surrounded by a group of six 0 atoms. Space group, Pd3m; ao, 8.12 A; unit cell content, 8 (Winchell, Part II, p. 81).

X-ray Data

Because the mineral is isometric, with equal axes at 90 degrees to each other, the only X-ray photographs taken were powder pictures. The pleonaste was mixed with a small amount of halite so a check could be made on the

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measurements taken from the X-ray films. Photographs were taken with both CuX- and FeX- radiation (Pl. 16).

Tabulated results of these photographs are shown in table 3 below.

TABLE 3

X-ray Powder Pattern

Isometric, Pd3m; ao = 8.12 A						
P	FeK Radiation		Gu	Cuk, Radiation		-
I	20	d	I	29	d	-
HARNER PRATER AND TO THE REPORT OF THE PART OF THE PAR	23.75 36.15 39.35 42.05 46.45 47.15 56.80 58.95 71.25 76.25 77.15 84.55 89.45 100.70 111.15 114.70 115.05 116.70 126.60 132.45 133.00 139.65 140.50 .52.30	4.710 3.120 2.877 2.700 2.456 2.420 2.036 1.970 1.663 1.569 1.553 1.440 1.376 1.258 1.170 1.149 1.150 1.137 1.086 1.058 1.057 1.031 1.030 0.997	24054561241441 41 1 1	18.85 30.95 36.55 44.45 55.15 58.85 64.65 76.65 83.85 90.15 93.75 98.95 101.35 110.75 110.35 119.75 129.45 130.15 146.55 147.15 158.45	4.700 2.890 2.450 2.030 1.660 1.560 1.140 1.240 1.150 1.080 1.050 1.010 0.996 0.938 0.938 0.890 0.851 0.851 0.804 0.786 0.786	

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PLATE 16

X-ray Powder Photographs

Figure 1. X-ray powder photograph of pleonaste from the Caballo Mountains. FeK. radiation.

Figure 2. X-ray powder photograph of pleonaste from the Caballo Mountains. CuK, radiation. K-ray Powder Photographs

to produce the same of the same

Figure 1. A-ray powder photograph of place number of the Caballo Mountains.

Pigure 2. K-ray powder photograph of placneate from the Cakella Mountains.

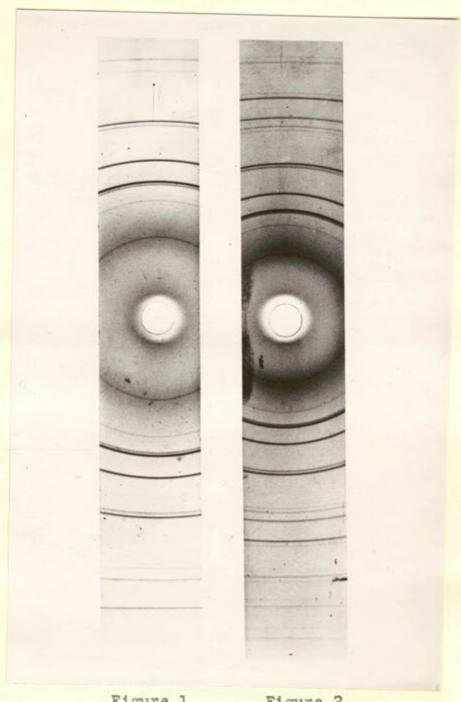
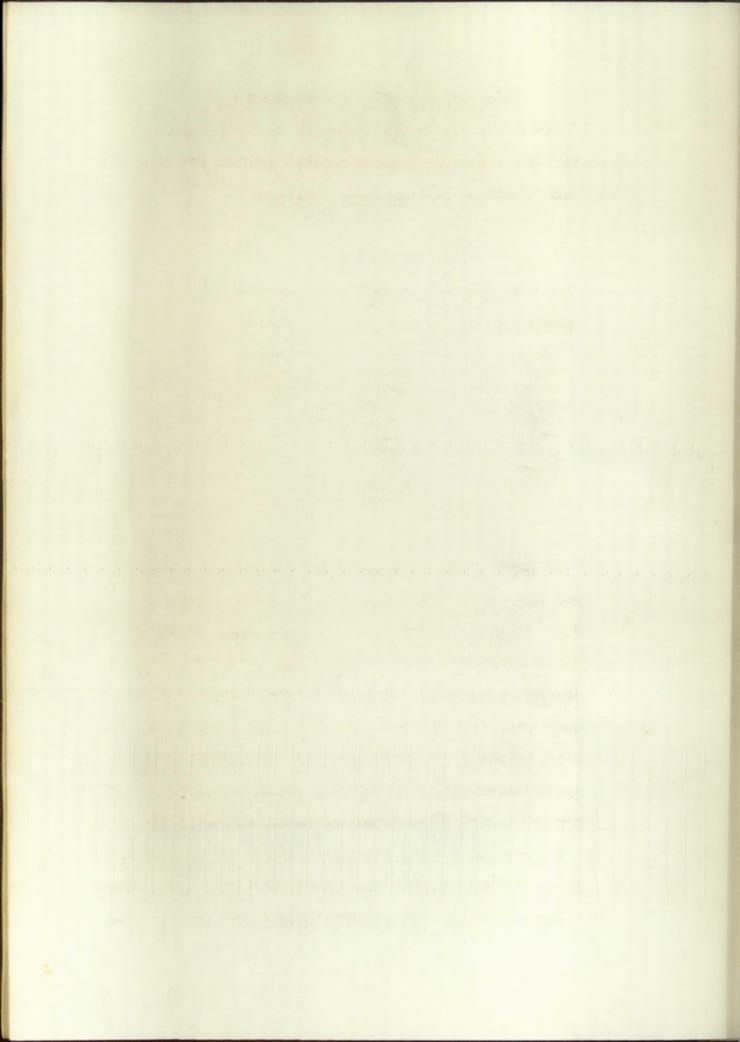


Figure 1

Figure 2



Composition and Cell Content

Table 4 below shows a quantitative chemical analysis of pleonaste and the molecular ratios of the constituents (Matthew E. Carlisle, analyst).

TABLE 4
Chemical Analysis of Pleonaste

Constituer	nt	Percent	Ratio
Al203 Mg0 Fe0 Cr203 Mn0 Sn02 Ti02 Zn0 Si02	Total	65.07 17.16 17.51 0.05 nil nil nil trace trace	0.638 0.425 0.243 0.0003

In making the chemical analysis, 4.025 grams of the mineral was used. The highly refractory nature of pleonaste is attested to by the fact that when fused in molten sodium carbonate for 20 days, the material lost less than 1 percent by weight. Similarly, when treated with hydrofluoric acid for 20 days, the material lost less than 1 percent by weight. Solution was finally attained by fusing the pleonaste with molten potassium bisulfate for 20 days. The pleonaste was not ground before chemical analysis because the high hardness presented the possibility of contamination by grinding. The analytical procedure of Scott was followed.

The molecular ratios were determined by dividing

Table of plant of providing a grant to the orange of the analysis of the constituents (Assisted in Carlings) and the constituents (Assisted in Carlings) a

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860.0	70.74 17.10	
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the mineral was used. The highly perspecters hashed of placemate is attached to by the duck that what hash in molter soften estion explorate for 20 days. the matchin lost less than 1 percent by weight. Sinisarily, then these with hydrofluoric seld for 20 days, the pateristical less then in percent by weight. Solution was timely extended by faster in the placemate with marter detected with suiter detected that it with the placemate with marter detected that it will be placemate with marter detected that it will be the bigh hardness presented the posteriors of a court will and by grinding. The entire the court of the placemate with analytical procedure of the court was fallowed. The standing, was analytical procedure of the court was fallowed.

the percentage of each elemental oxide by its molecular weight. In recasting the chemical formula, the molecular ratios (Table 4) were placed in the general pleonaste formula. From the general formula for pleonaste, (Fe, Mg)0. Al203, the molecular ratio between the Al203 and the sum of the FeO and the MgO would have to be equal. The amount of Cr203 is negligible. The sum of the FeO and MgO is higher by 0.30 ratio units than the Al203. All of the iron would be oxidized to the Fe203 state when fused in potassium bisulfate so that in the analysis there would be no test for FeO. The results in table 4 are based on the assumption that all the iron was in the plus 2 oxidation state. However, the above unbalance demands some Fe203 and requires the general formula for the pleonaste to be (Fe, Mg)0. (Fe, Al)203. Recasting the chemical formula on this basis produced the following results:

Constituent	Percent	Ratio	
Al203 Fe0 Mg0 Cr203 Fe203	65.07 16.07 17.16 0.05 1.60	0.638 0.224 0.425 0.010	
Total	99.95		

Changing some of the FeO to Fe203 gives a larger total amount, closer to the 100 percent total, for the analysis percentages, and gives a difference of only 0.001 ratio units between the FeO-MgO and the Fe203-Al203 totals.

the percentage of each classical counts, who endeader a weight. In recently the observed formula, who estates the second rector (lable 1) were pieced in the general piecesses formula. From the general formula for piecesses, (feeth) and Algo), the solequier really between the Algo; and the omit of the feeth and the age would have to be equal. The amount of CryO; is negligible. The sum of the less and and in higher by 0.30 ratio units then are algo). And of the income would be exidised to the feeth that are nearly to feeth for feeth at the passes of the feeth for feeth. The results in tehic there would be no easier for feeth. The results in tehic there would be no assumption that and the income analysis there would be no acted assumption that and the income chart and the incomes the place of the feeth of the place of the feeth of the feeth of the place of the feeth of the feeth of the state of the feeth of the feeth of the state of the feeth of the feeth of the state of the feeth of the following requires to be this besits preduced the following requires:

	Percent	
8:8.0 453.9 354.0 010.0	65.07 17.16 0.05 0.05	Algog Peo Creos Peoog
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total anount, closer to the 100 percent versi, for the 2001. Total parties of the 100 total of the 100 total

The formula taken from the above data would be: (Fe.345Mg.655)0.(Fe.016Al.984)203.

Optical Properties

The optical properties of the pleonaste, determined by immersion oils and the petrographic microscope, are: isotropic, high refringence, n = 1.788 to 1.789.

Grains and fragments, even when as small as 8 to 10 microns in size, are a dark green, almost opaque; fragments 2 to 4 microns in size are transparent and a dull green; fragments over 50 microns appear opaque.

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The optical properties of the planesis, determined by iswersion olds and the petrographic elerations.

are: isotropic, night refrighence, n : 1.75% to 1.75%.

Oreins and frequents, even when as make as 8 to 15 midmons
in size, are a dark green, simpst opened; insected & to b
microns in size one trapaparent and a dull smean; irregaints

over 50 microns eppear opreme.

THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS

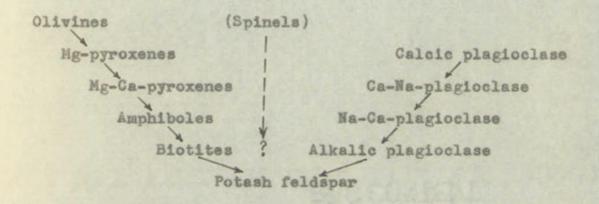
The rocks in the thesis area come under the general heading of basalt. There is a wide variation in the composition of basalt or basaltic rocks. In relation to the amount of silica they may be oversaturated, saturated, or undersaturated. The ratio of alumina to soda, potash and lime gives additional peraluminous, metaluminous, subaluminous and peralkaline types (Shand, 1947, pp. 225-245). These are but two of the numerous variations which may change the mode and naming of the rock. Basalt is generally defined as a rock which has as its essential mineral, calcic plagicelase feldspar, and as varietal. minor, or accessory minerals: olivine, augite, hornblende, feldspathoids, biotite, iron oxides, alkali feldspars, sodic plagicclase, sode-bearing pyroxenes and amphiboles, and quarts. The mafic minerals and the calcic plagioclase and other light minerals occur in approximately equal amounts (Tyrrell, p. 128; Wahlstrom, p. 294).

The order of crystallization probably depends not only on the original composition but also on the rate of cooling, which, in turn, is a function of the injection or ejection history. The exact nature of the formation of the many types of basaltic rocks from the original melt or magma is not definitely known, but a theoretical order of crystallization of the components can be formulated. The following is a theoretical history of the rocks from the

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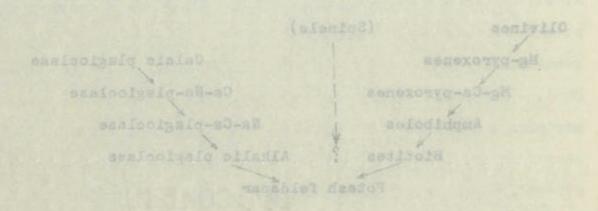
thesis area with the theoretical and experimental data outlined in Barth (1952), Turner and Verhoogen (1951), Tyrrell (1926), Shand (1947), and Wahlstrom (1947, 1950), as a basis. A generalized idea of the order in which the common minerals crystallize from a magma is given by Bowen's (1922) reaction series:



Olivine is one of the earliest minerals to crystallize in rocks, but in the presence of sufficient silica, it is converted to pyroxene (Brunton, 1952).

Calcic plagioclase is also early in crystallization, slightly later than the olivine. Consider a mineral system embracing olivine (forsterite), calcic plagioclase (anorthite), and silica in a phase equilibrium diagram (Pl. 17): it is divided into five fields corresponding to the primary crystallization of silica, clinoenstatite, forsterite, anorthite and spinel. If a melt of composition a begins to crystallize, the composition of the remaining melt will change as the forsterite crystallizes, as indicated by the straight line to b where spinel would begin to crystallize. The composition would continue to change along line b-c. When

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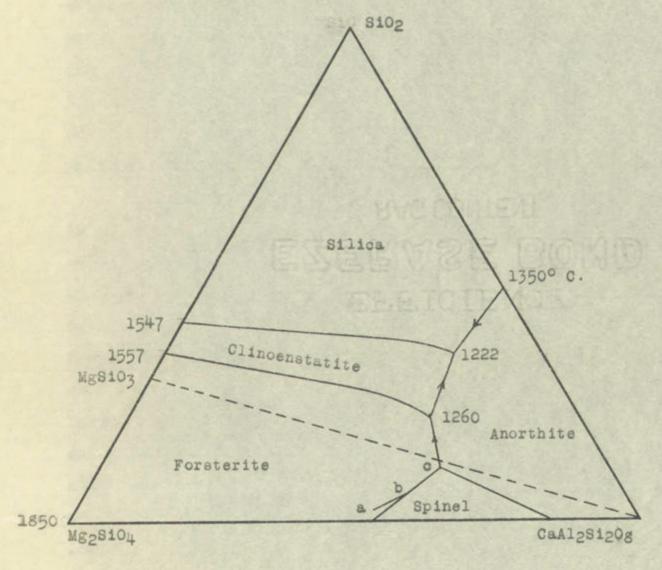


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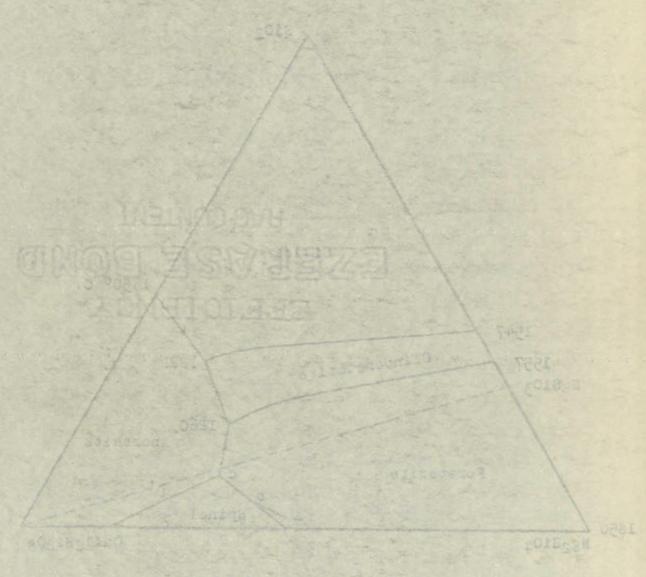
PLATE 17

Phase Equilibrium Diagram



Phase diagram for the system anorthite-forsterite-silica (Turner and Verhoogen, p. 104).

Photo Ford Library Diagram



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point c is reached, the spinel would no longer crystallize. From point c the composition would follow along line c1260°, with the crystallization of anorthite and forsterite.
At point 1260° the forsterite would react with the liquid to form clinoenstatite. As progressive cooling takes place, the composition of the remaining liquid would follow the path of the arrows until all of the melt has crystallized. Iron in the plus 2 and plus 3 oxidation states could replace the magnesium and the aluminum to form other minerals or variations in the ones shown.

By projecting the modal composition of the rocks in the Caballo Mountains area into this diagram, a line of crystallization similar to the one outlined above would fit. Olivine and spinel could crystallize from the melt and, if the melt were high enough in the oxides of magnesium, iron, and aluminum and low enough in silica, a considerable amount of spinel and olivine could precipitate and produce large crystals. Then, with continued cooling, the olivine and spinel would be reacted upon by the liquid to produce augite and clinoenstatite. If there were still an excess of alumina and sodium and a deficiency of silica, nepheline would crystallize in the lh04°-lh90° range; if an excess of silica were present, plagioclase would form. Clinoenstatite alters readily to serpentine and would not be preserved in the rock.

The foregoing outline of events is made on the basis of continued equilibrium of the melt, but in nature

From point of the companiation would follow sions line of 1250°, with the empariation of anorthies and constants. At point 1250° the foretarite while seast with an infantation of to form elinometatite. As progressive applied and in the composition of the regulating injust and follow the pasts of the sample in the pine 2 and in the pine 2 and pine 3 origination and could replace the magnesius and the standard could replace the standard could replace

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There are many disturbing elements in the order of crystallization which would preclude any possibility of the melt behaving as it theoretically should. However, an equilibrium diagram such as Plate 17 does give a good basis for the explanation of the occurrence of the various minerals in a given rock, and any inequilibrium would favor the preservation of the early-formed spinel and olivine. There are many discurding electrick in the order of dryshallies then with vould preclude any possibility of the wait the behavior as it theoretistily should. However, as equility of the discretion as Plate 13 does give a good bashs for the explanation of the pocurrence of the vertous almerain in a given rock, and any inequilibrium would from the preservation of the early-formed onless and oliving.

CONCLUSIONS

From this study of the occurrence of large spinel crystals in a flow rock, the writer has concluded that the malt, high in the basic oxides and low in silica, was intruded in a vent or fissure, or was in the top of a magma chamber, where it remained under fairly stable conditions of temperature and pressure. This would allow the formation of large crystals of spinel and olivine, euhedral in outline, provided the conditions and composition were correct for their crystallization. The writer assumes this was true, and that the magma was then ejected and cooled rapidly enough so that very little reaction took place between the spinel and olivine crystals and the magma.

This is the first recorded occurrence of primary pleonaste in New Mexico and the first occurrence of pleonaste of such unusually large size in the Southwest. Northrop (1942) records the occurrence of "'a green magnesian spinel", or pleonaste" mentioned by Dunham (1935) as occurring in metamorphosed chert nodules in dolomite xenoliths near Goat Ranch, in a gully southeast of the Merrimae Mine, Dona Ana County, Organ district, New Mexico.

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