

rapid disintegration which the surface is undergoing it is roughened rather than glazed. The largest cavity is in a block 6 by 4 by 4 feet, which is hollowed almost to a shell. The cavity is four feet long, three feet deep, and two feet high, and has four apertures varying from a foot to eighteen inches in diameter, and corresponding

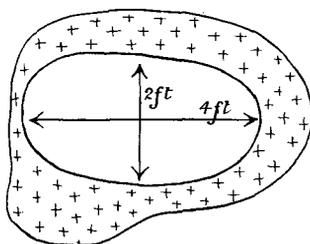


FIG. 2.—Cavity in a block of very coarse granite,  $6 \times 4 \times 4$  feet. The cavity is 4 feet long, 3 feet deep, and 2 feet high, and has four apertures varying from a foot to 18 inches in diameter, one on each side of block.

in position to the centre points of the four sides of the original block. The lip of the apertures is exceedingly sharp, and the solid angle is certainly not greater than  $30^\circ$ . No incrustation was seen on the walls of this cavity, but on the floor is a sprinkling of the finer disintegration products of the granite which abundantly litter the surrounding area.

From this brief description it will be seen that the former type of Antarctic granite cavities closely resembles in shape and in superficial glaze the cavities described in Corsica and in Madagascar. As in Corsica, many saucer-like depressions and a few potholes were observed, and seem to mark stages in the development of the completed cavities. Internal incrustations do not seem to be recorded, but Mr. Baron mentions a "white powder alkaline to the taste" as occurring in the hollowed blocks of Madagascar.

SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.  
February 18th, 1905.

H. T. FERRAR.

#### THE PROSPECTORS' PAN.

SIR,—May I be allowed to point out the advantages to be derived by the use of the prospector's pan as an aid to research in geology? Everyone interested in the subject is, of course, aware that minerals of economic importance may be traced to their original sites by successive pannings taken from the alluvium of a stream at points successively nearer to the source, due attention being paid to the incoming of tributaries; but the method is not in common use by the geologist.

The gold pan treats some 25 lbs. of medium gravel, containing small boulders, at one time, and the operation of panning can of course be stopped at any stage desired so as to include or exclude such minerals as tourmaline and hornblende. I would suggest that for investigations into the mineralogical composition of glacial deposits and the more compacted sediments this method of panning might be tried. In dealing with a hard rock, pounding in a mortar

and the proper use of sieves of various meshes may be necessary before panning. The method is rapid, gives reliable quantitative results, and deals with larger quantities than are convenient by more refined means.

Pan concentrates derived from any given crystalline rock become readily recognizable after a short time, and in forested country, where little or no rock is visible, afford a valuable guide in rough mapping. That, at least, is my experience in Southern Nigeria.

CALABAR, W.C.A.

January, 1905.

JOHN PARKINSON.

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OBITUARY.

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JEREMIAH SLADE, F.G.S.

BORN JULY 19, 1828.

DIED MARCH 9, 1905.

It is with much regret that we record the death, at the age of 76, of Mr. J. Slade. Although not known to scientific workers by published researches he had for half a century been a strenuous teacher and a helper to others. Brought up to the business of a coachbuilder in St. John Street Road, London, he was enabled comparatively early in life to retire, and devote his whole attention to natural history. While resident in the north of London he was a supporter of the once flourishing Literary and Philosophical Institution in Islington, and a frequent attendant at Dr. Bowerbank's "Monday Evenings at home" in Highbury Grove. He was early connected with the Working Men's College in Great Ormond Street, and it was at that institution in 1858 that the formation of the Geologists' Association was first discussed. Among those who took part in the provisional committee and who became founders of the Association were the Rev. T. Wiltshire, Mr. George Potter, Mr. Toulmin Smith, Mr. E. Cresy, Mr. W. Hislop, Mr. J. E. Wakefield, Mr. G. S. Penson, and Mr. J. Slade. In 1866 Mr. Slade assisted in the formation of the North London Naturalists' Club, the earliest field-club devoted to the study of natural history in the neighbourhood of London, and of which he was chosen Secretary. For twenty years (1865-85) he was a teacher of geology, mineralogy, zoology, and botany at the Working Men's College, the Birkbeck Institution, and the City of London College. During this period, from 1870 to 1875, he studied at the Royal School of Mines. He was an active member of the Quekett Microscopical Club, and he became a Fellow of the Geological Society in 1874. A constant attendant at the excursions of the Geologists' Association, his extensive and accurate information on many subjects, and his knowledge of plants especially, were ever cheerfully and unostentatiously communicated to inquiring students. The only printed paper contributed by him to the Association was entitled "Notes on the Microscopic Structure of the Basalt of Swallow Cliff and Uphill" (*Proc. Geol. Assoc.*, vol. vii, 1881, pp. 112, 113). His services to science are not recorded on paper, but they have borne good fruit and will long be remembered by a circle of friends whose love of Nature has been inspired and cultivated by his disinterested labours.

H. B. W.