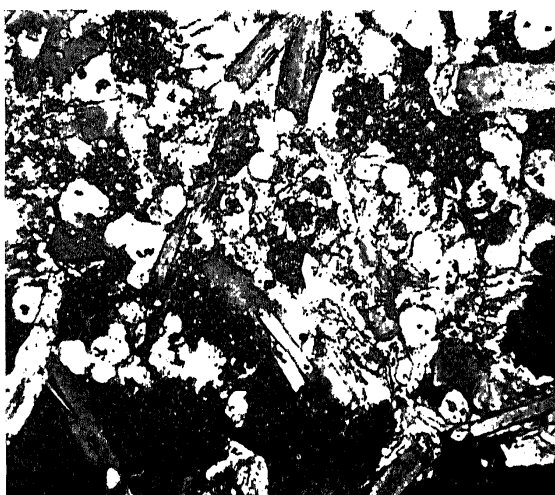


Pseudomorphs after Leucite in the
"Mica-trap" of Jharia Coalfield

WHILE studying the micro-sections of the 'mica-trap' from the Pathardih area of the Jharia Coalfield, I have found that its groundmass is made up of innumerable brownish turbid patches in case of the finer grained variety, and of water-clear patches in case of the coarser-grained one. These patches are strikingly polygonal or subrounded, and equidimensional. They are either isotropic, or are composed of weakly anisotropic material which is orthoclase feldspar showing brush extinction, or spherulitic intergrowth of feldspar and quartz. Sometimes cryptocrystalline quartz, calcite or limonite also forms a portion of the material of these patches. A few microscopic inclusions of opaque iron ore are observed arranged in the centre. The refractive index of the material forming these equidimensional grains is usually less than that of canada balsam. These patches cannot be originally of opal or of glass, as both the latter are amorphous and cannot show such hypidiomorphic outline. These grains occur in clusters in the groundmass and their refractive index is very low compared to that of apatite needles (present in the same slide), and is even lower



than that of canada balsam. Hence, these grains are not of apatite. The remarkable equidimensional sections of most of these grains and the absence of any longitudinal prismatic section amongst them in the whole slide, show that they were not originally of feldspar or quartz, which may have formed by replacing the groundmass or as amygdules in it. It is,

therefore, concluded that these crystals must have been of an isometric mineral—probably leucite—which has been replaced or altered by the felspathic material during the late magmatic changes undergone by the rock. These pseudomorphs are illustrated in the accompanying photomicrograph (ordinary light $\times 60$), kindly taken by my friend, Mr. G. C. Chatterji.

N. L. SHARMA.

Indian School of Mines,

Dhanbad,

July 21, 1939.

A Yellow-flowered Variety of *Gynura crepidioides* Bth.

RECENTLY some notes were inserted in this *Journal* concerning the rapid dispersal of *Gynura crepidioides* in Asia. Now I can report the appearance of a yellow-flowered sport in the advancing population.

We received a duplicate of a sheet collected in China, Kwantung Prov., W. T. Tsang 20763, collected at Chong Uen Shan near Kau Fung, Loh Ch'ang district, "Abundant on dry, steep, sandy slopes, in a meadow, weed 1 m. tall, flowers yellow, odorless". The specimen which was not identified was collected before 1932 for Lingnan Herbarium, Canton.

In June Mr. C. N. A. De Voogd, Forest Officer of Buitenzorg Res., collected SW. of Buitenzorg, in the neighbourhood of Djasinga at about 125 m. alt. amidst normally coloured plants, also some plants conspicuous by their golden yellow heads, anthocyanes apparently failing. No other distinctive characters against the normal red-brown flowered plants could be found.

I propose to name this yellow sport var. *lutea* nov. var.

In the Netherlands Indies the plant is still spreading eastward and is now also collected in Timor. I expect its appearance in Australia within a few years.

C. G. G. J. VAN STEENIS.

Herbarium, Buitenzorg,

Java,

September 4, 1939.

¹ *Curr. Sci.*, 1938, 7, 21, 116, 385.