

stone. They do not appear in the upper part of the Kaffir Kote Range as far as we have observed, but it is probable that oolitic strata again re-appear in the Sooliman Range, as we have seen belemnites brought by natives from the hills near Dera Ghazee Khan. These may probably be an extension of the Cutch strata before alluded to.

(To be Continued.)

Supplementary Notice on the new Mineral Resin, HIRCINE.—By
HENRY PIDDINGTON, *Curator Museum of Economic Geology.*

My first notice of this singular and new substance will be found in the Journal No. I. of 1852, p. 76.

Being in correspondence on other matters with Dr. Dawson of Rangoon, so advantageously known in Calcutta by his humane establishment of the Seamen's Hospital at that port, I sent him a minute fragment from our specimen, requesting he would be good enough, if he did not know it, to make enquiries regarding it. His answer just received gives so clear an account of what it is, that I think it well worth putting upon record. It will be seen that my conjecture as to its being a mineral Resin was correct, and we have thus one more added to the list of these singular and mysterious substances. Dr. Dawson writes as follows :

“By the arrival, the other day of ‘Fire Queen,’ I was put in possession of your kind note, dated December the 12th accompanied by a specimen piece of the new resinous Mineral ‘Hircine,’ and the paper which you had written and printed upon the subject.

“As early as June 1851, this particular substance attracted my attention, in connection with a miscellaneous collection of minerals, metals, models of machines and a variety of domestic articles, I was then engaged in making, for a Museum in Philadelphia. I found it in the bazar in rather small bits, in the shops of some of the Burmese druggists. This mineral I am informed, is procurable in Burmah, in that section of the country which abounds in the celebrated

petroleum wells. It is dug up out of the ground, at a considerable depth, ranging from one to two hundred feet below the surface. The day before yesterday, an intelligent Burman mentioned to me, that he once saw, not longer, he thought, than four years ago a lump of it about 5 Viss in weight, obtained in that locality, after a great deal of trouble in digging, as a specimen for the present king of Ava. It seems to have two names among those who are acquainted with the article, our name is *Khouk* a stone, and *pa young*—wax; stone wax. The other is, *perai-yet*, which has no particular meaning that I can learn. I have been also told, that there is another variety of this identical substance, which is of a high translucent colour, somewhat resembling spermaceti. It is derived, the natives tell me, from the same district, though I have never seen any of it. One is commonly called the *white* kind, the other, or that which you have experimented upon being the '*black*' sort. The Burmese, it appears apply it to no special purpose, either in medicine, or the arts, but the alchemists, a class whom we still find in this part of the globe; employ it in their attempts to effect the transmutation of the baser metals.

"Before the war commenced, and the consequent destruction of Rangoon, a few pieces of the brown kind could have been readily picked up in the druggists' shops, but now after a most diligent search, I regret to say, that not a single specimen of it can be found. Hereafter when the country above Prome is open to traffic, it will naturally find its way down to our bazar as formerly, when I shall not fail to remember your request.

"If it would not be giving you too much trouble, would you be so kind as to send a copy of your paper on '*Hircine*' to my friend, Professor James Bryan, M. D. Corner of Tenth and Arch Streets, Philadelphia, U. S., to whom the specimens I have already referred to were forwarded. The gentleman who may examine them, will thus be made aware of the researches you have instituted upon the subject of this new mineral."



Piddington, Henry. 1854. "Supplementary Notice on the New Mineral Resin, Hircine." *The journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* 22(III), 279–280.

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