

as what are termed microlites (p. 205). Like the glass-inclusions, they tend to range themselves in lines along the successive zones of growth in the inclosing mineral. Microlites are of frequent occurrence in leucite, garnet, augite, hornblende, calcite, fluorite, etc. From the fact that microlites of the easily fusible augite are, in the Vesuvian lavas, inclosed within the extremely refractory leucite, it was supposed that the relative order of fusibility is not always followed in the microlites and enveloping crystals. But this has been satisfactorily explained by Fouqué and Michel-Lévy, who have shown experimentally that leucite, when crystallizing from fusion, tends to catch up inclusions of the surrounding glass, which, should the glass be pyroxenic, may assume the form of augite.⁹¹

ε. Filaments, streaks, patches, discolorations. — Besides the inclosures already enumerated, crystals likewise frequently inclose irregular portions of mineral matter, due to alteration of the original substance of the minerals or rocks. Thus tufts and vermicular aggregates of certain green ferruginous silicates are of common occurrence among the crystals and cavities of old pyroxenic volcanic rocks. Orthoclase crystals are often mottled with patches of a granular nature, due to partial conversion of the mineral into kaolin. The magnetite, so frequently inclosed within minerals, is abundantly oxidized, and has given rise to brown and yellow patches and discolorations. Care must be taken not to confound these results of infiltrating water with the original characters of a rock. Practice will give the student confidence in distinguishing them, if he familiarizes his eye with decomposition products by studying slices of weathered minerals and of the weathered parts of rocks.

⁹¹ "Synthèse des Minéraux," 1882, p. 155.