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SYSTEMATIC MINERALOGY

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TEXT-BOOK
OF
SYSTEMATIC MINERALOGY

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PREFACE.

IN preparing the present volume, two main objects have been kept in view : first, that it should form a useful guide to students desirous of acquiring a general knowledge of the subject ; and secondly, that it should serve as an elementary introduction to larger text-books, such as those of Dana, Miller, Descloizeaux, and Schrauf, an acquaintance with which is essential to those who wish to familiarise themselves with the higher branches of the subject. For this purpose, the treatment adopted has been as general as possible, the descriptions of the crystalline forms dealing only with their symmetry and general geometrical properties, without entering into the question of the practical calculation and determination of individual examples, which would have increased its bulk beyond admissible proportions. In this part of the text, the methods followed have been mainly those of Groth's admirable treatise on 'Physical Crystallography,' except that the plan there adopted of considering the physical structure of crystals before their geometrical properties has been abandoned in favour of the less logical, though more familiar, one of giving precedence to the latter. The optical properties of crystals have been considered at somewhat greater length than is usual in rudimentary books, on account of the great and increasing use made of this branch of investigation.