The tectites of the Philippines

In 1926, a large number of balls and small cylindrical masses of a curiously pitted dark olive-green or greenish-brown glass were found near the town of Novaliches in a prehistoric Iron Age site, dating from around 500 years B.C. Subsequently lumps of this puzzling natural-glass, remarkable either for the uniformity of their form and shape, or the strange pitting of their entire surface, were found in the provinces of Rizal, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Batangas, Palawan and Samar - Two specimens from Bulacan, and a fragment clipped from a specimen found in Rosario, Batangas were sent by the author to Dr. Lacroix, Paris. Thirteen specimens obtained from Pugad Baboy, Polo, Bulacan were sent to the Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia by Mr. McCaw, superintendent of artesian wells, Bureau of Public Works, Manila. Between 1928 and 1930 more than 1700 natural-glasses of the same form and constitution were found imbedded in the alluvium deposits of Indochina and have been the subject of several physical and chemical investigations by the scientists of the Museum of Natural History of Paris.

In 1900 Suess gave the generic name of tectites to the fragments of natural-glass, rich in silica, alumina, lime, iron, magnesium and alcalis, found in widely scattered parts of the world, the specific names being moldavites, australites, billilonites, obsidianites and americanites. The object of the present note is to call your attention to the