

Tin Production in 1922.—Tin, though classed among the “base” metals, has some analogies to platinum. Its high luster, practical permanence in the air and resistance at ordinary temperature to some common corrosive agents have made it of great use in the household and in some industries. Like platinum, the supply is much below the world’s needs, only a few rich deposits being known. The Cornwall mines worked for centuries, are still yielding metal. Hopes were entertained some years ago that tin might be found in quantity in the United States, but these have not been realized. In 1916, 140 tons of metallic tin were produced, but the yield has steadily fallen, until in 1922 only 1.4 short tons, all from Alaska, were reported. The tin industries in this country rely, therefore, upon imports. The largest sources for 1922 were, for metal, England 10,000 tons and Straits Settlements 47,000. Tin concentrates were imported to the amount of 12,507 tons from Chile, but as Bolivia has no ports, the material was probably from the Bolivian mines, which are among the world’s important sources. The data given in this note are taken from a compilation by B. L. Johnson, being part of the report on the “Mineral Resources of the United States” for 1922, issued in form of advance sheets by the U. S. Geological Survey. H. L.

The Diminished Intensity of the Red Part of the Solar Spectrum Observed in Equatorial Regions. L. GORCZINSKI. (*Comptes Rendus*, Oct. 22, 1923.)—On a journey to Siam and Java about 40,000 observations of the radiation received from the sun were made. Though all these have not been worked over, the author “indicates an important point that emerges from the mass of observations, to wit, the progressive diminution in the intensity of the red part of the solar radiation that shows itself on a voyage from Europe to the equator.” The measurements show a difference of about 10 per cent., that is, under the equator 45 per cent. of all solar radiation is in the red, while in Europe 50 per cent. is in that part of the spectrum. “It is to the difference in distribution of solar energy throughout the spectrum that we must attribute the characteristic effects of sunlight in the tropics. The deficiency in the red part of the spectrum, joined to the excess in the violet, can alone explain the peculiarities of animal and vegetable life in the tropics.” His results justify the author in suggesting the great desirability of studying the energy distribution in the spectrum for different regions of the earth. Of particular value would be observations made in desert regions, upon mountains, under the equator and on an island such as Tahiti. G. F. S.

On a Coil Galvanometer of Rapid Indication. W. J. H. MOLL. (*Proc. Phys. Soc.*, Aug. 15, 1923.)—The properties of more rapid indication and greater stability have been attained by modifications in design. The moment of inertia is made small by the use of a coil whose vertical length is great in comparison with its horizontal width. This reduces the period of swing. “Now when the moment of