

## PART II

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Papers and Addresses Presented at the First Meeting,  
April 6, 1912

## Reported Discovery of Radium in Northern Arkansas

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In this day new results of scientific work make such rapid appearance that the public in general are very credulous about reported discoveries, however unreasonable they may appear, and even scientists are cautious about expressing adverse opinions concerning such, without having carefully investigated them. Apropos of this, a short article that some weeks ago appeared in a St. Louis paper, reporting an alleged discovery of radium in northern Arkansas and naming the writer as authority for its existence, has been somewhat widely copied by the press, and has brought numerous letters to the writer from different parts of the country from New York to California. Among these have been letters from scientists and those engaged in commercial work. The foundation for the report is as follows:

In the latter part of February, 1912, there came to the writer's office, then at the University of Arkansas, a Mr. Leib, of Bentonville, that State, who brought a cigar box of earthy material that he said came from a cave near his home. It was just such material as might come from any limestone cave. With the box was a photograph which Mr. Leib said had been made by exposing the box containing the material before a camera, for several hours, in an absolutely dark room. The picture was of about the distinctness of an ordinary X-ray photograph. It plainly showed the box, the string about it, and the knots in the string.

Mr. Leib was told by both Prof. A. A. Steel, of the University of Arkansas, and myself that while the photograph was interesting, careful investigation was necessary before it could be stated that the substance contains any radium or other radio-active material. For this purpose he was advised to send some of it to Prof. B. B. Boltwood, of Yale University.

Such is the basis of a newspaper story that seems to have attracted a good deal of attention.