Таблица XIV.

Tafel XIV.

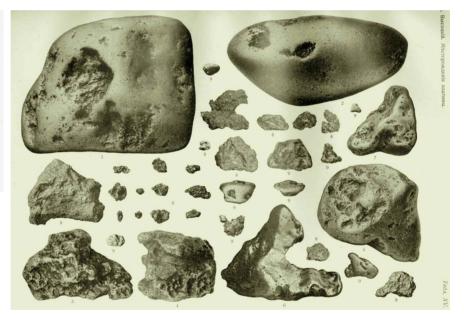
Figure 3. Description and images of the large platinum nuggets published in Table XIV (Vysotskiy, 1925). Nuggets ## 3 and 7 from this table are presently kept in the Diamond Fund of the Russian Federation (No 9 and 7, respectively).

Таблица XV.

- Tafel XV.

Figure 4. Description and images of the large platinum nuggets published in Table XV (Vysotskiy, 1925). Nuggets ## 3, 4, 5, 6 from this table are presently kept in the Diamond Fund of the Russian Federation (No18, 10, 6, 12, respectively).





of his works an unusually gigantic platinum nugget: «..the largest platinum nuggets weighed more than 80(?) kg (Nizhniy Tagil, Urals)» (Zvyagintsey, 1933). However, he never mentioned the date, weight, or precise location of the find². Unfortunately, no other records about these nuggets have been found to date.

One can assume that the Diamond Fund of the Russian Federation hosts the largest preserved nugget at present. It is our glorious Uralian Giant.

Exploration for platinum deposits was not limited to Nizhniy Tagil mining district. Platinum was searched and found to the north of it, near the ultramafic rocks along the Urals ridge, including the northern boundary of the present Sverdlovsk oblast. Many deposits have been discovered. Detailed descriptions can be found in Vysotsky (1913) and Betekhtin (1935). Both authors mentioned insignificant size of native platinum par-

² The report seems to be not trustworthy – Editor

ticles. Large nuggets have been found only at two deposits. Two nuggets (NoNo 10 and 18) from the Malo-Pokrovsky mine near the Biser plant (placers at the mouth of the river Kyrma, a left tributary of the river Koiva) and eight nuggets (NoNo 1, 3, 4, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17) from the Rastyos allotment, which occurs near the Kos'va Kamen' mountain (placers in the upper part of the river Malaya Kos'va, a right tributary in the upper part of the river Bolshaya Kos'va).

Platinum Nugget No 10 (2,262.2 g, $81 \times 72 \times 63$ mm, Photo 9) is semi-rounded. Its shape is lumpy, angular, slightly elongated. At one end of the nugget are the four smoothed pyramidal highs, reminding a root of the tooth. An opposite end is relatively rounded. The sides possess smoothed ridge-like highs of diverse length and orientation. The surface is smooth, rough, with coarse topography and with channel-like and conchoidal depressions (from 5×3 to 60×30 mm in size, from 1 to 25 mm in depth), locally flatpitted, and porous.

Platinum Nugget No 18 (1,951.4 g, $100 \times 72 \times 59 \text{ mm}$, Photo 10) is semi-rounded. The shape is lumpy-elongated, angular, with fine meandering outlines and numerous smoothed ridge-like highs. The surface is conchoidal-hilly, smoothed at rises, fine-pitty, flat-pitted, and wavy. The depressions are of different shape (from 5 x 3 to 16 x 6 mm in size, from 1 to 16 mm in depth). Inside the nugget is the wide cavity (23 mm deep) with oval mouth (4 x 2 mm).

The two Rastyor nuggets (NoNo 1 and 12) exceed the Demidov nugget.

Platinum Nugget No 1 (5,918.4 g, 133 x 105 x 67 mm, Photo 11) is well rounded. The shape is lumpy, slightly flattened, angular with smoothed edges and angles. In plan view,



Photo 9. **Platinum** nugget. 8.1 x 7.2 x 6.3 cm, 2 262.2 g. The Diamond Fund of the Russian Federation, No 10.