

BOOK REVIEWS

LEHRBUCH DER MINERALOGIE, by W. SCHMIDT AND E. BAIER. Second Edition, revised and enlarged by E. Baier, 376 pp., 302 illustrations and one colored plate, 16×24 cm. Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel, Switzerland, and Stuttgart, Germany, 1955. Price, bound, 35 DM.

The first edition of this text was published in 1935 and reviewed in considerable detail by J. W. Gruner (Vol. 21, p. 267). The senior author, Professor W. Schmidt, died April 25, 1945, and accordingly the text was revised by the junior author, E. Baier.

The method of presentation follows rather closely that of the first edition. Many of the chapters have been expanded, which is especially true of the one on geometrical crystallography. The descriptions of the minerals leave much to be desired. In fact, it is questionable whether students can obtain a satisfactory knowledge of the various properties which are important in the rapid recognition of many of the minerals described, and of their principal localities. A bibliography of 4¼ pages has been added, and the book as a whole increased by 56 pages.

The text is well bound, but the price is relatively high.

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CLAYS AND CLAY MINERALS, EDITED BY ADA SWINEFORD AND NORMAN PLUMMER. National Academy of Sciences, *National Research Council Publ.* 327, viii+498+index, Washington, D. C., 1954 (1955), \$4.00. (Proc. 2nd Natl. Conference on Clays and Clay Minerals, Columbia, Mo., Oct. 15-17, 1953).

This volume is a "must" for all persons who would attempt to keep abreast of this rapidly expanding area of knowledge. As indicated in the introduction, the contributors are ceramists, chemists, crystallographers, geologists, mineralogists, petrographers, physicists, soil scientists, and several types of engineers, if any such simple classification is feasible.

The volume includes 36 scientific contributions on genesis and occurrence, methods of identification, fundamental studies in mineralogy or crystallography or chemistry, and miscellaneous topics. Much of this information has not been published elsewhere. A guide to the field trip is included.

Mineralogists should be more than casually interested in the discussion on pages 344-348, where a phase-rule chemist and a physicist (crystallographic) discuss "... a thorough overhaul of the nomenclature of the clay *minerals* . . ." (Italics mine). That such an "overhaul" is "long overdue" is probably true, but it is hoped that a mineralogist will be invited to attend this conference when it convenes, even if he merely acts as an observer.

The editors are to be complimented on the excellence of their work. The quality of the book meets the highest standards in all respects.

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