BOOK REVIEWS


The work "Regional Geology of Czechoslovakia" will appear in three parts of which this is the first. The second will be on the West Carpathians, and the final section will be the "Geological Atlas" with 7 maps, 1:1,000,000. Nearly 100 geologists have been concerned with field and laboratory investigations for this summary. New concepts of the structure, stratigraphy and correlations are proposed for nearly all of the country. Although the primary descriptive emphasis is geological, a great deal of information is given on the petrology of the rock units involved, and for each area there is brief mention of its mineral resources. This clearly is the definitive work on the structure and geological units of Czechoslovakia. Unfortunately there is no index; hopefully one will appear in Part II.

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In Part One (55 p.) mineral deposits are discussed under the following genetic headings: Deposits Formed by Igneous Activity; Deposits Formed by Metamorphic Activity; and Deposits Formed by Surface Agencies. In Part Two (247 p.), metallic elements that occur in general genetic association, i.e., chromium-platinum-nickel, and tin-tungsten-molybdenum-bismuth, are discussed together and the most important deposits of each type are described. Under Part Three (109 p.), industrial minerals are grouped by usage, genetic association, or common chemistry and the most important deposits are delineated.

Professor Lamey has succeeded in producing a well-written, abbreviated introductory text of metallic and industrial deposits. The illustrations are chosen with care and the use of abundant tables well summarizes the major points. A pertinent bibliography follows each major topic. The approach is almost entirely descriptive. Where causes of ore formation are discussed, the most orthodox theories are discussed without favor. Included are sections on pegmatitic minerals; uranium, vanadium, thorium minerals; rare-earth minerals; and thorium and zirconium minerals.

Rapid obsolescence is one of the difficulties inherent in that part of any text that relates the relative importance of producing countries. Unfortunately the production figures generally given in this book are for the period 1945-1959. Along this line the discussion of carbonatites is especially bare (<1 page) with the latest reference dated 1960. The section on industrial minerals is highly abbreviated and is not on a par with the other two sections.

This book follows closely the approach of earlier texts in economic geology and its chief value lies in its updating of the earlier texts. Those who look for an economic text that incorporates some of the tremendous changes in the theory of ore deposition that result from solubility studies, mineral thermometry investigations, phase equilibria experiments in ore systems, and related studies must look elsewhere.

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SHORT NOTICES

GEOLOGY OF THE SHEBA LEAD MINE, DEATH VALLEY, CALIFORNIA.

GEOLOGY OF THE OROVILLE QUADRANGLE, CALIFORNIA. R. S. Creely. Calif. Div. Mines Geol. Bull. 184. 86 p., 2 plates (incl. geol. map in color), 50 figs., 1965, $3.50. The Oroville Quadrangle, in Butte County, lies across the Sacramento Valley-Sierra Nevada border. Dominant structural features were impressed during the Nevadan orogeny; rock units (low-grade metamorphics, volcanics, intrusives and sediments) range in age from late Paleozoic to Pleistocene. A brief listing of the mineral resources is given.

MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES OF TRINITY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.
J. C. O’Brien. Calif. Div. Mines Geol. County Rep. 4. 125 p., 2 plates (incl. geol. map in color), 3 figs., and 19 photos, 1965. Trinity County, chiefly in the Klamath Mountain province, was a source of placer gold as early as 1849 and has been, until very recently, a major California producer of both placer and lode gold. Mercury has been the second most important mineral, and substantial amounts of chromite, copper, manganese, platinum and silver also have been obtained. Since 1956 stone, sand and gravel have been the chief mineral products. From 1880 through 1962 the total value of minerals produced was $59,426,238.

NEBENMETALLE. Jürgen Feiser. Vol. 17 of the series, “Die Metallischen Rohstoffe.” Ferdinand Enke Verlag, Stuttgart, Hasenbergeis 3, Germany (BRD). 247 pp., 24 tables, 20 figs. 1966. DM 65 (cloth bound), DM 60 (paperback). This volume of the well known series treats Cd, Ga, Ge, In, Se, Te, Th and Bi, each under such descriptive sections as: history, properties, occurrence (mineralogy, geology, individual deposits, geochemistry), recovery, uses, and literature. A modern, complete and authoritative reference work.

LECTURES ON GEOLOGY. John Walker. Ed. by Harold W. Scott. Univ. Chicago Press, Chicago Ill., 280 p., 1966. $8.50. The “Lectures on Geology” were delivered at the University of Edinburgh in 1779 by John Walker who numbered among his students James Hutton, John Playfair, James Hall and Robert Jameson who have long been considered the “fathers” of geology. Discovered by Prof. Scott, the Lectures reveal that Walker was the real “father” of geological teaching. Walker was the first to assemble the known information on the earth, to organize it as a lecture series on natural history under the title of “geology”; he was the first Scotsman to publish a classification of minerals and rocks, and he compiled the first glossary of geological terms. This is a fascinating discovery and again reveals how much of the history of geological thought has been lost in the brief span of the development of our science.