

entirely new. Workers in the field of nuclear geology will find this part of the book an extremely valuable source of information and reference, while the book as a whole represents a standard text on isotope geology.

T. W. B.

TAYLOR (H. F. W.), Editor. *The Chemistry of Cements. Vol. I.* London and New York (Academic Press), 460 pp. Price: 100s.

Cement production is a major branch of chemical industry and as such has been the subject of scientific study for many years in most countries of the world. Nevertheless much still needs to be done and the field of research is broad and rapidly changing. The present volume satisfies a need for a contemporary review of the position, sifting and condensing the views put forward at the periodic Symposia on the Chemistry of Cement, the last of which took place in Washington in 1960. Existing textbooks, excellent though they are, are addressed more to the practitioner and of necessity have to put forward an authoritative view, glossing over the more controversial topics. This volume will appeal not only to the practical man who wants to know why his material behaves as it does, but also to the research worker and to chemists and mineralogists generally.

Edited books are rarely easy to read because of the varying styles and viewpoints of the different contributors; this volume undoubtedly owes much to the personal influence of the editor, who has succeeded in welding it together into a coherent and easily digested whole. It deals with the general chemistry of calcium silicates and aluminates and its application to the manufacture and utilization of Portland cements. Other industrial cements and experimental methods are to be dealt with in a second volume.

The subject is approached from the viewpoints of crystal structure and solid-state chemistry and although many phase diagrams will be found in the book, it is recognized that equilibrium will rarely be obtained and that many of the important phase changes are governed by topochemical processes.

The book is well produced and indexed.

R. W. NURSE

VAN OLPHEN (H.). *An Introduction to Clay Colloid Chemistry.* New York and London (Wiley), 1963. 301 pp. Price: 75s.

This book is addressed to clay technologists, geologists, and soil scientists, but in some respects is too specialized to appeal to so wide an audience. Nevertheless, the author begins with a fairly elementary