

tests, and radioactive tests. The final section labelled 'Confirmatory Tests' includes precise refractive index determination of transparent minerals, chemical analysis, and X-ray analysis. A scheme is set out for a logical way of recording the information for identification as it is gathered.

The tables provide the properties of all the common minerals likely to be met and certainly of those able to be identified by their use. In Table I the minerals are listed alphabetically and in Table II they are split into four groups based on specific gravity; each of these groups is further subdivided on the basis of hardness and these are split up on the colour of the streak.

This is a book to be recommended to all mineral workers in the field of ore and industrial materials.

BRIAN SIMPSON

KAPLAN (S. R.). *Guide to information sources in science and technology, volume 3: mining, minerals and geosciences*. New York (Interscience), 1965. 599 pp., 2 pls. Price: 95s.

This is a reference book listing those world organizations that are connected with mining and geology and also the periodical literature on the subject. Part I consists of nine chapters, each covering a continental area but with the Americas separated into North, Central and Caribbean, and South America. The Middle East and International organizations also have separate chapters. The countries in each chapter are listed alphabetically, as are the organizations under each country heading. There is a brief description of each organization, its address, and its publications. Part 2 indicates the periodical literature that each country publishes on mining, geosciences, and a few related subjects.

Errors and omissions are to be expected in a first edition of a reference book of this sort and the publishers have thoughtfully provided a tear-out reply form for readers. However, errors and omissions are plentiful, unless this reviewer is particularly unlucky in the organizations and journals he knows best. Some are a matter of compilation, for the address of Overseas Geological Surveys is given wrongly on page 371, but correctly on page 303. Information is also not always complete: the address of the Turkish Mineral Research and Exploration Institute is missing although it is simple enough to obtain. There are also omissions in Part 2, the *Mineralogical Magazine* among them!

An irritating feature of the book is that some foreign organizations are listed alphabetically under their foreign language name, sometimes followed by an English translation. Others are listed under the English

translation of the name, with or without their foreign language title in brackets. Three such variations are found on one page in the section dealing with Turkey. Even more irritating is the way countries are listed under their subject subheadings in Part 2. For instance, under 'Mining—Journals' the sequence runs . . . United Kingdom, Yugoslavia, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, India, Japan . . . This does not, at first sight, appear to be an alphabetical arrangement. In fact it is the same order of countries used in Part 1, with those with no publications on the subject omitted, and without pause or space between the continental groups. It is most confusing. A simple alphabetical order would be an advantage in this part of the book.

Despite its faults, this book will be useful to those who wish to know where information can be obtained on the various countries of the world. Later editions will presumably be more accurate when those who feel slighted by wrong entry or omission have returned the form provided to the publishers.

J. W. BARNES

McDermitt (J. F.). *Minerals and Men*. Baltimore (Johns Hopkins Press), 1965. 158 pp. Price: 16s.

The early pages of this book are concerned with the place of minerals in modern society. The fixed nature of minerals in place, in amount, and in composition is stressed and is related to the users of minerals, the variation in demand (as for example between peace and war) and the state of technological knowledge. This book does what it sets out to do, which is to give 'an economic perspective to physical facts' in relation to minerals.

Under the heading of 'Commodity Studies', the steel industry, the base metals, the light metals, and industrial minerals and rocks are considered. Occurrence, complexity of needs, technology, and economic aspects are discussed. Some stress is laid on the great cost of mineral production. The copper of Peru, used as an example, points to the discovery in difficult terrain, the housing of skilled workers and families in townships with all ancillary services, the railroad construction to the coast where housing is needed along with the construction of piers and loading facilities for ocean-going transport.

The problem of the changing amounts of reserves is related to the changing patterns of technological practice and developing markets. The influence of politics is often touched on as in the case of manganese which the U.S.A. originally imported solely from the Soviet Union. When this