

text, there are extensive references both in the development of the material and at the end of each chapter. Many chapters are supplemented by examples (with answers), and there are a number of worked numerical examples within the text. Six appendixes contain up-to-date values of the relevant constants for a wide range of materials and conditions. In a preface, the authors express the hope that the expanded scope will increase the audience and the utility of the book. There seems little doubt that their expectations will be fulfilled, for, despite the limitations that any book must have in a rapidly expanding scientific field, they have provided a volume that will both teach and stimulate others to a fuller understanding of the basic problems of geochemical and geological processes.

P. GAY

PEARL (R. H.), edited and adapted by J. F. Kirkaldy. *An introduction to the mineral kingdom*. London (Blandford Press), 1966. 254 pp., 15 colour plates, 37 text-figs. Price: 25s.

The text opens with a short account of the nature of minerals, their importance in the modern world, and a glimpse at the ways of mining and preparing of minerals for use. The identification, composition, and classification of minerals is outlined in an interesting and instructive manner. Under the heading 'Flowers of the Mineral Kingdom' a brief but concise account of crystallography is given. Gem minerals and their fundamental qualities are described and atomic and synthetic minerals are discussed. A very useful bibliography and an excellent glossary are included in the work and consideration is given to the collection and after care of minerals and rocks. The illustrations are good—the coloured ones superb—and the maps are useful. This is a book which will appeal to the general reader and be of considerable interest to the specialist particularly as it has been so well edited for the British scene.

BRIAN SIMPSON

BÖRNER (R). *Minerals, rocks and gemstones*, 2nd edn. Edinburgh (Oliver & Boyd), 1966. xi + 250 pp., 16 colour plates. Price: 30s.

The book is divided into three sections:

In the first section, after a brief explanation of those properties of minerals used in the work, the general make-up of the tables is explained. In the tables the most easily determined physical properties are used, making identification of a mineral species a relatively easy operation. The tables classifying the minerals on streak and hardness are very useful. It seems doubtful if it is worth including good drawings of, for