

of the comprehensive descriptive sections, which include a welcome summary of the distribution and relationships of the principal economic deposits.

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RAGUIN (E.). *The geology of granite* (Translated from the 2nd French edition by E. H. Krank and P. R. and J. M. Eakins). London (Wiley), 1965. xxi + 314 pp. 51 figs. Price: 68s.

The first edition of Raguin's 'Geologie de Granite' appeared in 1946; the second, considerably revised, notably by the inclusion of much new descriptive material and references, was published in 1957. 'Geology of Granite' is a very faithful translation of the second French edition. Indeed, the rendering is in places unnecessarily literal, as 'The concept of a geochemical culmination gives distinct firmness (*donne une consistance précise*) to the chemical fronts resembling successive waves (*semblable à des vagues successives*)' (p. 96). There are, of course, a number of difficulties in translation, especially where there is no satisfactory equivalence in terminology or even of concepts. Such difficulties the translators have clearly recognized and overcome by the use of footnotes. Occasionally, however, one feels that it would have been better not to have translated a term; thus 'filtering columns' hardly conveys '*colonnes filtrantes*' and sounds odd as 'an expression of Pierre Termier' (p. 94).

Raguin's book is majestic in concept; granite is a major phenomenon of the earth's crust and an understanding of the nature, environments, and genesis of granite lies at the heart of geological thought. The work provides a comprehensive and appreciative description of all aspects of the petrology of granite, its mode of occurrence, and its structural setting. The list of chapter headings itself conveys the broad scope of the treatment. The reader is, moreover, guided in his appraisal on the significance of the data. Such guidance is in some measure subjective or intuitive, but on this topic it can hardly be otherwise; indeed, it provides not only a coherence to the work, but also a stimulus to critical thinking.

Despite the revision and incorporation of much new data in the second edition, the book retains the atmosphere of the 1946 edition when notions on the genesis of granite were largely focused around two opposing schools of thought, the magmatists and the transformists. The relevance of the argument is, however, greater than current attitudes might suggest, for the development of additional methods of approach has complicated rather than resolved the original controversy.

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