

BOOK REVIEWS

MASON (B.) and BERRY (L. G.). *Elements of Mineralogy*. San Francisco and London (Freeman), 1968. x+550 pp., 233 figs. Price 80s.

This is a modified and revised version of *Mineralogy: Concepts, Descriptions, Determinations*, published in 1959 (M.M. 32-352). Part I ('Concepts') covers morphological crystallography, the chemistry of minerals (including a section on the interpretation of analyses), the physical properties of minerals, geochemistry, and genesis, the methods of determinative mineralogy, and a consideration of the systematics of the subject, each chapter closing with a series of exercises, and occupies 197 pages. Part II ('Descriptions') takes up the major part of the book with 306 pages; the silicates occupy 114 pages thus leaving almost 200 pages for sulphides, oxides, carbonates, sulphates, phosphates, etc. A major and welcome change in this version of the book is the inclusion of a small section on refractive index determination and the use of interference figures as a means of identification of non-opaque minerals, and the incorporation of the relevant optical data into the mineral descriptions, but the perpetuation of the term pyroxenoid for the group of minerals including wollastonite, rhodonite, and pectolite, which are now known not to have a pyroxene structure, is regrettable. The coverage of the production and uses of the economically important minerals has also been revised to accord with current industrial practice. Part III ('Determinative Tables') in 26 pages is keyed mainly on lustre, colour, and hardness. The diagrams and mineral photographs are clear and the index is good. This book clearly deserves a place in all teaching libraries.

R. A. HOWIE

MORRISSEY (D. J.), editor. *Mineral Specimens*. London (Iliffe Books), 1968. viii+202 pp., including 100 coloured pls. Price 105s.

This book comprises a collection of colour photographs of minerals selected for their economic importance, spectacular appearance, or importance as rock constituents. Each plate is accompanied, on the opposite page, by details of chemical composition, morphology, optical and physical properties, diagnostic features, and occurrence and use. The plates, accompanied by the text essentially in its present form, appeared in *Mine and Quarry Engineering* over a period of several years. Some of the colour plates are excellent, such as those of apatite and beryl, but others such as those of anglesite, corundum, and diopside are lacking in sharpness, and the plate illustrating the garnet group is rather uninspiring. The difficulties of photographing minerals in colour are considerable and the problems of obtaining correct hue and colour register in printed plates are even greater, but there are now several German and Italian books on the market with a very high standard of reproduction of colour photographs of minerals. The book is intended to be of interest to both the amateur and the professional geologist: it is a pity that the price seems rather high.

R. A. H.