

RADCZEWSKI (O. E.). *Die Rohstoffe der Keramik*. Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York (Springer-Verlag). 1968. viii+143 pp., 80 figs., 36 tables. Price DM 29; \$7.25.

This book is rather uneven in its emphasis. There is a good deal on the structure of clays, and a useful section on electron microscopy including some excellent electron-micrographs, a field in which the author is well known. Raw materials other than clays and feldspar of German origin are very lightly dealt with, but there is some useful information on the location, nature, and composition of the main German deposits.

P. S. KEELING

KUNZ (G. F.). *Gems and Precious Stones of North America*. (A reprint of the 2nd edition, with a new introduction by E. Olsen.) New York and London (Dover Publications; Constable), 1968. xii+367 pp., 16 pls., 8 coloured pls. Price 33s. 6d. (\$3.50).

This is a reprint of one of the gemmological classics. The beautifully clear print and all the illustrations are faithfully reproduced on the same scale as the original, though the format has been reduced from quarto to a large paperback octavo by sacrificing some of the margins. All colour plates have been reproduced, which is a most creditable achievement at the price but has involved a woeful loss of crispness and colour tone. The colour plates compare very poorly with the fresh tones of the original, now seventy-eight years old.

The wealth of historical and geographical information, the detailed descriptions and drawings and the wide range of materials covered make this a book to which one returns with much pleasure.

E. H. C. R.

SINKANKAS (JOHN). *Van Nostrand's Standard Catalog of Gems*. London and Princeton (Van Nostrand), 1968. xiii+286 pp., 50 figs. Price 56s. (paperback), 75s. (cloth).

This book sets out to supply information on the problems of supply and marketing of rough and cut gem materials and includes discussions on pricing systems, the stability of prices, and investment values, and also considers the human factors involved in the evaluation of gemstones. After a brief introduction to the factors influencing the esteem in which gemstones are held, the main part of the book consists of listings of current cut and rough gemstone retail values in U.S. dollars, preceded by remarks and advice on qualities, sizes, possible defects, and other information designed to assist the reader in buying or selling. There are also subsidiary chapters on engraved gems, carvings, miscellaneous gemstone objects including inlay work, spheres, and beads, and on pearls. The diagrams illustrating the styles of cutting, possible faceting errors, and the methods of cutting stones so that small flaws are positioned to disguise their presence, will all be of considerable use to prospective buyers. The book is addressed to amateur lapidaries, gem collectors, and museum buyers but should also be of interest to mineralogists and to jewellers. There is always the possibility that a new discovery will flood the market with a gemstone that only the day before was so rare as to command a high price, but otherwise the relative standing of the more important

gemstones one to another will change very little, although some of the cheaper gem materials may tend to suffer at the dictates of fashion. Inevitably one can find occasional examples where the prices seem too high but at the present time most of the prices seem to correctly represent the state of the market in gem materials, tending if anything to over-value when compared with European prices. Certainly the retail value data will have to be adjusted to reflect the general rise or fall (?) in the cost-of-living index but the author is to be congratulated on making this courageous attempt to produce a unified and comprehensive reference work. R. A. HOWIE

JOPLIN (G. A.). *A Petrography of Australian Metamorphic Rocks*. Sydney (Angus & Robertson), 1968. x+262 pp., 71 figs. Price A\$8.00.

In this volume the author has followed her earlier published *Petrography of Australian Igneous Rocks* (1964) with a companion study of Australian metamorphic rocks. The work is divided into parts, largely on an environmental basis. The introduction (32 pp.) presents a general account of terminology, classification, and nomenclature, including the structures and textures of metamorphic rocks. It is followed by a study of contact metamorphism and metasomatism as illustrated by Australian examples (56 pp.). A third part entitled Palaeozoic regional metamorphism concentrates on four areas where progressive zones have been mapped, and facies series recognized, these areas being compared with classic metamorphic type areas, particularly in Britain and Japan (52 pp.). Finally, in the fourth part (108 pp.), the largest section of the book, the treatment deals with Precambrian metamorphosed rocks. Here the author is faced with the description of rocks with a much more complicated history. This arrangement inevitably has led to some repetition in the rock descriptions, nevertheless, there are good grounds for a treatment that separates the description of the better known Palaeozoic metamorphic areas with their less entangled history from that of Precambrian complexes where repeated metamorphism is more widespread and difficult to resolve.

As a descriptive account of Australian metamorphic assemblages the book achieves its purpose excellently. The acceptance of modern metamorphic concepts is assumed but there are provided adequate references to the literature relevant to this field of inquiry. The author's beautifully executed microscope drawings of metamorphic assemblages and their textures admirably supplement her text descriptions.

The work will be welcomed not only by students of Australian geology but also by all workers abroad engaged in the field of metamorphic petrology. C. E. T.

VOLNEY (C. F.). *A View of the Soil and Climate of the United States of America*. Translated with occasional remarks by C. B. Brown. Facsimile of the Philadelphia 1804 edition. Introduction by Professor G. W. Wright. New York and London (Hafner Publishing Company), 1968. xxviii+446 pp., 3 maps, and 1 pl. of geol. sections (from the London 1804 edition) in pocket. Price \$20.00.

Constantin-Francois Chasseboeuf, Comte de Volney, a versatile French intellectual