

BOOK REVIEWS

DESAUTELS (P. E.). *The Mineral Kingdom*. New York (Madison Square Press), 1968, 252 pp., 147 photos., 144 coloured photos. Price \$14.95.

This book is a magnificently illustrated introduction to the whole range of the mineral kingdom, from the romantic legends of antiquity to the techniques of contemporary earth science. It is intended for the developing interests of the amateur, but it is written from the mineralogist's point of view and most readers of this *Magazine* will find the text absorbing and will be delighted by the many colour photographs of choice specimens from the Smithsonian Institution collections. As well as dealing with gemstones and with industrial minerals, there are chapters on the amateur collector and his hobby and on the minerals of the connoisseur. The amateur mineralogist may, if he cares to, achieve near-professional expertise; the collector becomes a connoisseur when he is able to recognize the best of everything that relates to his hobby, for only then can he begin to acquire it. The author makes the point that in any field classics are established by the taste, experience, and trained eye of the connoisseur and illustrates this with the reproduction of a Jan Vermeer portrait in juxtaposition to an amethyst group from Due West, South Carolina, but also compares a Picasso with Mexican tourmaline, both of which are classics of the present day.

R. A. HOWIE

MEHNERT (K. R.). *Migmatites and the Origin of Granitic Rocks*. Amsterdam (Elsevier Publishing Co.), 1968, x+393 pp., 138 figs., 14 tables.

Professor Mehnert is so well known for his original works on the problems of the origin of granitic rocks that we would expect an authoritative text. We are not disappointed for he makes an admirable attempt to cover the whole field, providing a good summary of the present knowledge of migmatites, especially of occurrences in Central and Northern Europe.

After a thorough discussion of the structure and fabric of such rocks (the section dealing with textures is excellent) there follows an up-to-date discussion of the granite system, the determination of the temperature of formation, and the nature of metasomatic and magmatic processes. With this as a basis various possible origins of migmatites are then debated at some length in chapters dealing with the particular roles of magmatism, anatexis, and metasomatism.

This useful book is marred by being difficult to read; there is a tendency to a verbosity and obscurity of expression that is not merely the result of translation and to add to the reader's difficulties there is an unnecessarily complicated and repulsive migmatite nomenclature. Of course, few would deny the difficulties inherent in attempting a discussion of so variable a group of rocks but the author often seems to be searching for single solutions to problems without considering that there may be a variety of causes for any particular phenomenon.

In the general discussion the role of deformation in the origin of migmatites is