

The chapter on thermodynamic properties of feldspars in addition to containing the known thermodynamic constants for feldspar includes a large number of phase diagrams, which show phase relations in systems containing feldspars. The final chapter consists of historical notes and old names and is a useful concluding chapter.

The book is beautifully printed on a high quality paper on which the ten photomicrographs reproduce very well. The price for a book of this size at 6*d.* per page is excessive and in the reviewer's opinion authors should be more careful in their selection of publishers. Some publishers apparently cannot discriminate between a book that will have very limited sale and therefore must be priced very highly and a book that has such wide appeal that it can make a good profit without excessive cost.

W. S. MACKENZIE

SAVITSKIĬ (E. M.), POLYAKOVA (V. P.), and TYLKINA (M. A.). *Palladium Alloys*. Translated by R. E. Hammond. New York (Primary Sources), 1969. vi+212 pp., 129 figs. Price \$24.50.

The main part of this monograph is devoted to the phase diagrams and the physical and electrical properties of binary and ternary alloys containing palladium. Other sections deal with the uses of the metal and its alloys, the extraction of palladium from copper-nickel sulphide ores, and the chemical and physical properties of the metal itself. Since the U.S.S.R. is responsible for about half of the present world production of platinum metals, it is appropriate that the authors should be Russian, and some of the work, particularly on the alloys of palladium with other transition metals, is their own work, unpublished hitherto. The presentation is rather too uncritical, but the book provides a most useful, if costly, compendium of information, particularly from Russian sources.

P. S. ROGERS

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. *Readings in the Earth Sciences*. Vols. 1 and 2. San Francisco (W. H. Freeman & Co.), 1969. Vol. 1, xii+305 pp. Vol. 2, xii+316 pp. Price 94*s.* each volume.

For many years *Scientific American* has made a major literary and scientific contribution by keeping both scientists and non-scientists informed of the latest developments in all fields of science. In these two volumes 74 of the articles that have appeared in the last 20 years on various aspects of the Earth Sciences have been collected together and reprinted in their original format complete with the original superb illustrations. Articles of direct interest to mineralogists and petrologists include those on 'Astroblemes' by R. S. Dietz, 'Tektites' by V. E. Barnes, 'Ancient fluids in crystals' by Edwin Roedder, 'Volcanoes' by Howell Williams, and 'Continental drift' by J. Tuzo Wilson, but these volumes will be used no doubt even more to read up on