gradations from mild aridity to this extreme. The early chapters therefore deal with the products of sedimentation from weakly 'mineralized' waters. The ball is immediately in the court of the mining geologist because discussion is directed to the genesis of strata-bound deposits of copper, lead, and zinc. The author synthesises the evidence of stratigraphy, palaeogeography, sedimentology, geochemistry, etc. to build up the argument that many of these ore bodies were the products of 'arid lithogenesis'. It is this broad-based approach of a man competent in many diverse fields of geology that characterizes the whole of the work.

Passing on through phosphatic sediments, carbonates, and bituminous sediments, the bulk of the book is concerned with saline deposits. Both recent and ancient evaporites are dealt with in detail and interrelated in a balanced manner. Of especial interest to the reader outside the U.S.S.R. are the valuable summaries of the works of Soviet geologists on their present day saline deposits.

Over the past twenty years sedimentology has been one of the rapidly developing fields of geology, and even within the past ten years many concepts have changed radically. In an era where authoritative books are appearing almost faster than they can be read, a work such as that of Strakhov's *Principles of Lithogenesis*, published nearly a decade ago, might be thought to be already outdated. Certainly many new facts have emerged, but the reader can interpolate these in the course of reading Strakhov, and these new facts take on added significance against the broad-based text. An expensive book perhaps, but a good long-term investment for it will be many years before it is outmoded or excelled.

Tribute must be paid to the translator, J. Paul Fitzsimmons, for the reader is left with the impression that both the style and the spirit of the author have been preserved.

D. J. SHEARMAN

HURLBUT (C. S., Jr). *Dana's Manual of Mineralogy.* 18th edition. John Wiley & Sons Inc., New York & London. 579 pp., 441 figs., 1971. Price £7·00.

The publication of a new edition of Dana's Manual is a welcome event. Already the best and most widely used introductory textbook of mineralogy, this latest edition maintains the high standard of its predecessors. Over the years this book has steadily grown by the addition of new material, and apart from the absence of data on the less common minerals it is now comparable in size and scope with W. E. Ford's 1932 edition of Dana's Textbook, originally a much more comprehensive work. The new material in the latest edition includes a chapter on crystal optics and a section on space groups, and the data given for individual minerals now include optical properties, cell dimensions, and the strongest lines of the X-ray powder pattern. The optical material will be the most useful, enabling the student to dispense with a separate textbook for this branch of the subjects. Together with the more advanced textbook by Deer, Howie, and Zussman, this volume will fill the needs of most geology courses.

The book is well written, well illustrated, and beautifully printed. Every student of geology and mineralogy should have a copy; unfortunately, few will be able to afford the price.

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