

by Dalrymple and Lanphere [M.M. 37–859], which is comparable in scope in a somewhat similar field. Dalrymple and Lanphere seem to me to have achieved a masterly interrelation of practical information and insight. Their book would give the reader a philosophy with which to approach K-Ar dating and the knowledge to assess the meaning and validity of K-Ar data. I do not think Hoefs's book would do this so successfully in its field.

However, the third section of the book is a wonderful summary of conclusions and opinions from the literature and from some unpublished studies. It is written very much from a geological point of view and makes informative and interesting reading. One omission is that no reference is made to Barker and Friedman's interesting paper *Carbon Isotopes in Pelites of the Precambrian Uncompahgre Formation, Needle Mountains, Colorado*. (Bull. Geol. Soc. Amer., **80**, 1403–8, 1969). Generally the bibliography is excellent.

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STALDER (H. A.), DE QUERVAIN (F.), NIGGLI (E.), and GRAESER (S.). *Die Mineralfunde der Schweiz*. Basel (Wepf & Co.), 1973, xii+432 pp., 49 pls. (4 in colour), 159 text-figs., 2 fold-out panoramas, 2 fold-out maps (1:200 000). Price bound (linen boards) 78 Swiss francs.

This attractively produced volume is a welcome new edition of R. L. Parker's *Die Mineralfunde der schweizer Alpen* [M.A. 12–457], which in turn was effectively a new edition of *Die Mineralien der Schweizeralpen* by P. Niggli *et al.* [M.A. 8–49]. The title changes reflect the differences in scope as the work has evolved; the increase in size (by 121 pp. and 1 map) and locality coverage is matched by the increase in price (from 36 to 78 francs), which is very reasonable after 19 years. The definitive text on Swiss mineralogy, it should find a place in every library.

A brief introduction contains general information on Alpine 'kluftmineralien' and theories of their origin, and the main part of the book (pp. 19–370) is devoted to detailed regional mineralogy. The locality and bibliographical indexes are excellent, and there are useful lists of (*inter alia*) geological and petrographic maps. Unfortunately, as in the previous editions, the mineral index only gives page references for the less-common species. The commoner species form recognizably distinct parageneses, which are described and numbered (pp. 22–37); these paragenesis codes are used in conjunction with a numbered classification of the localities, and familiarity with the layout is essential if one is looking for the commoner minerals. This feature makes for conciseness, but can easily discourage the casual user—especially if his knowledge of German is slim.

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