

magnificent specimen of uvarovite crystals embedded in a quartz matrix (Sahama)—the colour printing can hardly be doing the specimen justice. A 'coffee-table' book, perhaps, but one which any mineralogist would be glad to have. R. A. H.

ANGINO (E. E.) and BILLINGS (G. K.). *Atomic absorption spectrometry in geology* (Methods in Geochemistry and Geophysics: 7). Second edition. Amsterdam, London, and New York (Elsevier), x+191 pp., 14 figs., 1972. Price Dfl. 32.20 (\$10.25).

This revised edition of the book, which first appeared in 1967, is an attempt to cover the rapid developments in the field of atomic absorption analysis from 1967 to 1971. This has been done by adding a large appendix to the original edition, taking up 44 of the 191 pages, and in its present form it is essentially two books in one. The book brings together a large amount of information that, although readily available in the literature, is valuable to geochemists to have in a single volume. It includes chapters on theory, instrumentation, and interferences with specific references to most analysable elements, and a substantial section on applications, which are most useful. However, the format adopted, of having the recent developments in a separate section, is more for the convenience of the author than the user.

Inevitably in a book of this size some aspects of the subject are not fully covered. In particular, the section on commercially available instruments is rather thin and of little relevance to the British market. The question of detection limits for the various elements is well covered, but little is said about the excellent precision and accuracy that can be achieved. This could have been more fully considered, perhaps at the expense of the chapter on the rather esoteric applications of atomic absorption to isotopic and noble gases analysis.

These criticisms aside, the book does cover an important and expanding analytical method. It will be of value not only to geochemists actively using atomic absorption but to geologists wanting a general introduction to the method and its potentialities.

J. N. WALSH

WOOD (D. N.), Editor. *Use of Earth Science Literature*. London (Butterworths), 1973. x+459 pp., 23 figs. Price £7.50.

The increasing volume of literature is making it more and more difficult to discover previously published information, and an urgent need has developed for up-to-date guides to primary and secondary sources of knowledge. Dr. Wood, of the National Lending Library, at Boston Spa, has written most of the fundamental chapters himself (Primary literature, Secondary literature—reference and review publications, Secondary literature—bibliographies, abstracts and indexes, Translations, and Foreign literature), and has gathered a formidable team of experts for chapters on various sections of the subject. In the chapter on Primary literature, Wood analyses the references in twenty publications and finds that 82 % were to periodicals; the *Mineralogical*