

WEDEPOHL (K. H.), editor. *Handbook of geochemistry*, volume II/4. Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York (Springer-Verlag), 1974. vi+898 pp., 113 figs., Loose-leaf binder; Price DM 298, U.S. \$122.20 (subscription price DM 238.40, U.S. \$97.80). This monumental compilation of geochemical data nears completion. With the present instalment, in the familiar grey loose-leaf binder, the chapters on the following elements are now complete: B, C, N, O, F, Mg, Si, Cl, V, Fe, Co, Zn, Ga, Se, Br, Ag, Sb, Te, I, Ba, W, Au, Tl, Pb; while the following are complete save for occasional sections: Li, Be, Na, K, Sc, Ge, As, Rb, Yt, Ru-Pd, Cd, In, Sn, Cs, La-Lu, Re, Os-Pt, Hg, Bi, Th, U.

This latest instalment follows the same plan as its predecessors (*Min. Mag.* 38, 116-18; 533-4; 39, 618-19) and contains most of the material for B, Halogens, V, Cu, Ag, Au, and Pb, as well as individual sections and some replacement sheets for twenty-two others. In the cases of H, Noble Gases, P, S, Ca, Ti, Cr, Mn, Co, Ni, Sr, Zr, Nb, Mo, Hf, and Ta little or nothing is yet available except the introductory Section A on Crystal Chemistry, while major gaps remain to be filled in the treatment of Al. It is to be hoped that one more instalment will see the completion of the enterprise.

As regards the quality of the work, little can usefully be added to reviews of previous instalments; as publication progresses, the user perhaps becomes less aware of unevenness of treatment of the various elements in the euphoric state induced by having such a wealth of detailed information accessible in such a convenient form. Of course, the purchaser must be prepared, on the receipt of each new instalment, to rearrange the contents of the (now) four loose-leaf binders, following the 'Notice to Users' placed at the front. The presentation is clear, with excellent typography and diagrams, and commendably few obvious printer's errors. The Handbook is much used in libraries and laboratories; its price precludes it from finding a place, as it should, in the working collection of every researching geochemist.

It is now five years since the 'systematic' part of the Handbook began to appear; keeping it up to date will be a considerable problem. E. A. VINCENT

HERRMANN (A. G.). *Praktikum der Gesteinsanalyse*. Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York (Springer-Verlag), 1975. vii+204 pp., 20 figs., 24 tables. Price DM 29.80 (\$12.90).

This workmanlike volume, bound in durable soft cloth covers, is designed as a laboratory guide to practical rock analysis. Claiming neither to be a comprehensive text nor a 'cook book' it is in fact nearer to the latter, having grown out of laboratory manuscripts developed for use in the analytical laboratories of the Geochemical Institute at Göttingen. Aimed particularly at beginners in the subject, the German-reading student will find it a useful guide to the available methods for determining the major constituents in rocks and minerals by chemical and instrumental procedures depending upon decomposition and solution of the sample; purely physical methods such as optical emission and X-ray spectrography and microprobe analysis are not discussed.

The book includes an introductory section covering such topics as sampling and