

kornerupine. It is followed by information on pearls, including the method of valuation, which rivals the calculation of the date of Easter. The chapter incidentally contains an account of the establishment and development of the formidably named Gem Testing Laboratory of the Diamond, Pearl and Precious Stone Trade Section of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. A useful glossary, an alphabetical list of gemstones and their main physical constants, together with a nomenclatural list completes this very useful book.

One has to scrape the barrel somewhat to criticize the author's achievement of what he intended to do. I find commas before conjunctions irritating. In biological nomenclature, generic names (of pearl-producing oysters, for instance) should commence with a capital letter. The largest beryl crystal of gem quality weighs 110.5 kg and, as the author informs us, weighs more than 1 cwt. He might have mentioned that it also weighs more than 2 cwt.

But 'sniffings and girdings' seem ungenerous after having derived so much pleasure from this fine book in which the author has done so well for his public. At £15 a copy the publishers evidently hope to do well for themselves.

F. HODSON

Raguin (E.). *Géologie du granite*. 3rd edition. Paris, New York, Barcelona, and Milan (Masson), 1976. xi+276 pp., 65 figs. Price 96F.

Readers will recall the now discredited hypothesis of granitization, on which so much discussion was fruitlessly expended in the decades up to 20 years ago. Some veterans of this debate, reluctant no doubt to acknowledge the error of their ways, now extend the term granitization to describe even the formation of granite magma by melting. Professor Raguin, in the latest edition of his well-known book, uses the term to mean any process at all by which granite is formed. He acknowledges a substantial role for magmatic processes in the formation of at least some granitic intrusions, but his text is permeated by the nomenclature and pre-occupations of the granitization era, and he still believes that many granites were formed from pre-existing solid material in place.

Never mind, everyone is entitled to his own point of view. The real faults of this book are in its omissions. The chemical and mineralogical compositions of granites are not discussed. Experimental studies of the relevant synthetic systems are passed over in half a page. Isotopic evidence on the origin of granites is hardly mentioned at all. Indeed, one looks in vain for a quantitative treatment of any aspect of the subject. There are very few references to recent publications except those of French authors, and there is no proper index. In short, whatever your opinion of granitization, you will not be able to obtain an up-to-date picture of the geology of granite by reading this book.

A. HALL

Strens (R. G. J.), Editor. *The Physics and Chemistry of Minerals and Rocks*. London and New York (John Wiley—Interscience), 1976. xvi+697 pp., 241 figs. Price £19.50.

This book is based upon what was clearly a very successful NATO Advanced Study Institute on 'Petrophysics' held at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in April 1974, under the direction of Professor S. K. Runcorn. The title of the book is more cumbersome but more accurately represents the subject-matter of the symposium. Forty-one papers are published dealing with three main themes summarized in the editor's preface as: transport properties including electrical and thermal properties and convection; the dependence of the macroscopic properties of rocks and minerals on their microstructures; and the reactions, properties, and structures of minerals, particularly those containing transition metal ions, at high pressure.