great strings of figures without adequate explanation for the less informed reader and is occasionally inaccurate in its quotation of figure numbers. Generally, however, this is a well-produced book which will be read by many amateur and professional geologists.

MERVYN E. JONES

Parker, A., and Sellwood, B. W., eds. *Sediment Diagenesis.* Amsterdam and London (D. Reidel Publishing Co.), 1983, 417 pp. Price £35·50.

This book contains the majority of the principal contributions given at the NATO Advanced Study Institute on Sediment Diagenesis held at Reading, July 12–25, 1981. Details and abstracts of the eight papers are given in MA 85M/1017–1024. The authors are well known and have published extensively on their subject areas, including a number of authoritative textbooks. The chapters do therefore provide both a summary and an up-date on what is already published, and the text is therefore extremely useful. Comprehensive treatment of a diverse subject such as diagenesis is, however, difficult to achieve, particularly as the subject is evolving rapidly, mainly because of the importance of diagenesis in all stages of hydrocarbon evolution. Subjects possibly not adequately covered in the text are organic diagenesis, early diagenesis from the standpoint of rate processes and applications of isotope geochemistry. This reflects a personal preference and is not a serious criticism. The book is produced from 'camera-ready' material and this does lead to some unevenness in the quality of the text-figures and plates.

D. A. SPEARS

Nawaz, R. *Moon, Asteroids, Comets, Meteorites and Tektites: the most studied but the least understood bodies of the solar system.* Belfast (Ulster Museum), 1984, viii + 52 pp., 18 figs. Price £1·00.

This booklet is designed to explain and further illustrate a museum display and thus concentrates on the geological and mineralogical rather than the astronomical aspects of the Moon, meteorites, and tektites. It includes a 10-page glossary and also gives the chemical classification of meteorites and a list of the abundance of the various types.

R. A. HOWIE

Gere, J. M., and Shah, H. C. *Terra Non Firma: Understanding and Preparing for Earthquakes.* Oxford and New York (W. H. Freeman & Co.), 1984, x + 193 pp., 88 figs. Price £11·95 (paper), £19·95 (board).

This fascinating and well-illustrated book deals with the need to understand and prepare for earthquakes. Most of the examples are taken from earthquakes in the USA and Japan. Both authors are civil engineers with many years of practical experience in coping with the problems caused by earthquakes, landslides, and tsunamis. Plate tectonics, intraplate earthquakes, and earthquake prediction are each discussed.

R. A. HOWIE