

scopy are now included. Information on optical properties and distinguishing features is at a similar level to the previous edition.

A noticeable feature of the differences in style between the authors is the presentation of the tables of chemical analyses. These tables in the carbonate chapters do not include any optical properties, perhaps largely due to the fact that they are mostly relatively recent and probably by electron microprobe. Several of the other chapters still contain many old analyses that were in the first edition and this is particularly marked in the sulphates section. The very first analysis in the book is a baryte analysis from 1954 with 2.01 wt.% SiO₂; surely there are better analyses available now. If modern analyses mean no optical data, that is a sacrifice well worth making, as these days chemistry is the main diagnostic property, not precise determination of optical properties. I was disappointed to see that several chapters had no chemical analyses at all, particularly as these are mostly the new chapters: smithsonite, cerrusite, malachite, azurite and, surprisingly, fluorite. I regard this as a serious omission as the great value of this series of books is as a first (and sometimes last) point of call, where there is something about everything. A quick check on that unexpected microprobe analysis. How much lead is there in cerrusite? It should be there.

In general the book is well written, and extensively illustrated with clear diagrams that aid understanding. There are a few typographical errors, such as a mislabeled diagram or two and dates missing from references, but apart from these and the subheadings mentioned earlier, it is a well presented book. A great strength of this series is the consistent layout which makes finding information so much easier. The balance of content and length is just right with the overindulgence of some of the previous

second editions (300 pages on olivine in Vol. 1A) avoided.

Adding a new member to the team introduces minor differences in style but the quality is just as good. If this change means that future volumes will appear sooner this is most welcome. This volume continues the tradition as an excellent reference book. When looking for information about rock-forming minerals there will rarely be a better starting point and on many occasions all you want will be there. The cost of £115 may seem high but with such a wealth of information it is good value for money. How long would it take to track things down from such diverse sources? The book is a must for all libraries and well equipped mineralogy laboratories, but individuals would have to be very keen on these particular minerals to make the outlay.

M. T. STYLES

Viner, D. *The Iona Marble Quarry*. Inverness (New Iona Press). 1992, 24 pp. Price £3.95 (+ £0.50 p & p). ISBN 0-9516283-2-1.

This slim booklet gives a description of the occurrence and working of the Iona marble (a Precambrian serpentinized forsterite-tremolite marble, mainly white but with streaks and patches of light to dark green serpentine). There is evidence of it first having been worked in the late 15th century; it was re-opened in 1907, but only occasional working has been carried out since the First World War. Photographs show the quarry at work, and details are given of how to reach this rather hidden locality, some 500 m NNE of the most southerly point of the island of Iona, off the Ross of Mull; there is also a plan of the marble quarry itself.

R. A. HOWIE