

would hope, but no entry for anorthite — or for andesine, bytownite, labradorite or oligoclase — and for plagioclase one has to look in the third index (because it is a subgroup). In the text we are told that the compositional boundaries for names within the plagioclase subgroup are arbitrary, which may be the reason for their exclusion. Turning to the third or general index, this is, perhaps, the one to be recommended for routine use, but unfortunately this is also where the spelling gremlins have been at work yielding such new mineral names as alietite, djurite, lawonite, pyrooxene, variamoffite and wallastonite.

When one considers the immense volume of work involved in compiling this massive reference as a whole, however, one should not be surprised that occasional lapses in proof reading have occurred. In the main text there are occasional infelicities in some of the references, the odd bracket omitted, and one doubts that there is a place in New Zealand called Otego, but there is nothing that detracts from the understanding of the vast spread of accurate and up-to-date data presented. The entire mineralogical community should be grateful to the five authors for the many years of scanning the literature and sifting and assessing the data with which we are now presented. Quite clearly each and every library claiming to cover mineralogy must have a copy of this book, and it is to be hoped that those servicing geologists would also have it on their shelves.

R.A. HOWIE

Anthony, J.W., Bideaux, R.A., Bladh, K.W. and Nicois, M.C. *Handbook of Mineralogy. Volume III: Halides, Hydroxides, Oxides*. Tucson (Mineral Data Publishing), 1997. x + 628 pp. Price £67.50 (+ £3.40 postage; available in the UK via Endsleigh Book Co., Norwich NR16 1LH). ISBN 0-9622097-0-8.

This book follows the now familiar style of the earlier volumes (e.g. *Mineral. Mag.*, **55**, 146; **59**, 771), and deals principally with halides, hydroxides and oxides, but also includes antimonates, antiminites, arsenites, carbides, nitrides, phosphides, silicides and Voxyalts. Thus we are presented with single-page entries for each mineral species in this grouping, ranging from abhurite to zirklerite, with data up to 1996.

The species are presented in a strictly alphabetical arrangement, which leads to the juxtaposition of hematite with heliophyllite and of ice with ilmenite. The description of each species includes an idealized chemical formula, crystal system, habit, twinning,

cleavage, hardness and density. The optical properties cover colour, lustre, optic sign, refractive indices, pleochroism, etc. and data for the unit cell include the space group, cell dimensions, cell contents and the seven strongest lines of the XRD powder pattern. In general terms, the criterion for a mineral to be included is that it is accepted by the I.M.A. Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names, and one has no quarrel with that, though it does mean that a name such as titanomagnetite, much used by petrologists, gets no mention, nor does the recent upstart ferritchromit find a place. It does seem a pity, however, that the more common synonyms and variety names are omitted, e.g. there is no mention of sapphire under corundum nor of specularite under hematite.

Despite any such minor criticisms, we nevertheless have a very comprehensive data source, continuing this important series of volumes. As before, the production is first rate and remarkably free of errors (though I think it unlikely that fernandinite really has a refractive index as low as 1.205). The authors are to be congratulated on getting Volume III out so soon after their earlier massive compilation of the silicates, and are keeping to their promise of keeping all earlier volumes in the series available in print. The price is very reasonable and no earth sciences library can afford to be without this and its companion volumes. Yes, the new eighth edition of Dana is now out (see above), but the approach differs considerably and good libraries will need both works. R.A. HOWIE

Blackburn, W.H. and Dennen, W.H. *Encyclopedia of Mineral Names*. Ottawa (Mineralogical Association of Canada), Special Publication No. 1. 1997, viii + 360 pp. ISBN 0-921294-45-x. Price \$40.

This attractively produced and sensibly priced hard-back book in A4 format provides a detailed study of the origin of the names of 3800 mineral species considered to be valid by today's criteria. The nomenclature used is that approved by the IMA Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names and includes the recently published revision of the nomenclature of the amphiboles. As well as giving the etymology of each name, details are also given of the discoverer of the mineral, its type locality, chemical formula, symmetry and space group, and pertinent references. Also, where appropriate, the relationship with other species is mentioned. The introductory pages provide a detailed explanation of the principles involved in the naming of mineral species.