

gemstones one to another will change very little, although some of the cheaper gem materials may tend to suffer at the dictates of fashion. Inevitably one can find occasional examples where the prices seem too high but at the present time most of the prices seem to correctly represent the state of the market in gem materials, tending if anything to over-value when compared with European prices. Certainly the retail value data will have to be adjusted to reflect the general rise or fall (?) in the cost-of-living index but the author is to be congratulated on making this courageous attempt to produce a unified and comprehensive reference work. R. A. HOWIE

JOPLIN (G. A.). *A Petrography of Australian Metamorphic Rocks*. Sydney (Angus & Robertson), 1968. x+262 pp., 71 figs. Price A\$8.00.

In this volume the author has followed her earlier published *Petrography of Australian Igneous Rocks* (1964) with a companion study of Australian metamorphic rocks. The work is divided into parts, largely on an environmental basis. The introduction (32 pp.) presents a general account of terminology, classification, and nomenclature, including the structures and textures of metamorphic rocks. It is followed by a study of contact metamorphism and metasomatism as illustrated by Australian examples (56 pp.). A third part entitled Palaeozoic regional metamorphism concentrates on four areas where progressive zones have been mapped, and facies series recognized, these areas being compared with classic metamorphic type areas, particularly in Britain and Japan (52 pp.). Finally, in the fourth part (108 pp.), the largest section of the book, the treatment deals with Precambrian metamorphosed rocks. Here the author is faced with the description of rocks with a much more complicated history. This arrangement inevitably has led to some repetition in the rock descriptions, nevertheless, there are good grounds for a treatment that separates the description of the better known Palaeozoic metamorphic areas with their less entangled history from that of Precambrian complexes where repeated metamorphism is more widespread and difficult to resolve.

As a descriptive account of Australian metamorphic assemblages the book achieves its purpose excellently. The acceptance of modern metamorphic concepts is assumed but there are provided adequate references to the literature relevant to this field of inquiry. The author's beautifully executed microscope drawings of metamorphic assemblages and their textures admirably supplement her text descriptions.

The work will be welcomed not only by students of Australian geology but also by all workers abroad engaged in the field of metamorphic petrology. C. E. T.

VOLNEY (C. F.). *A View of the Soil and Climate of the United States of America*. Translated with occasional remarks by C. B. Brown. Facsimile of the Philadelphia 1804 edition. Introduction by Professor G. W. Wright. New York and London (Hafner Publishing Company), 1968. xxviii+446 pp., 3 maps, and 1 pl. of geol. sections (from the London 1804 edition) in pocket. Price \$20.00.

Constantin-Francois Chasseboeuf, Comte de Volney, a versatile French intellectual