

The seven papers on the development of evaporites in supratidal sediments (the largest number on any topic) covers the work in Texas, Baja California, and the Arabian Gulf. The importance of oil company research in connection with the development of the 'sabkha concept' is not recognized in this volume.

Collected together in the section on Models of Evaporite Deposition are detailed studies of ancient evaporite sequences in the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. and some useful oceanographic observations of a more general nature.

The three papers on Rhythmic Bedding are well chosen from the literature available in English, to give the conflicting interpretations of the origin of layering together with excellent petrographic descriptions.

The section on Temporal and Spatial correlations using American and German examples should be considered in conjunction with the Rhythmic Bedding papers.

Perhaps the least satisfactory part of this book is that on diagenesis and alteration. The four excellent papers chosen to cover the whole field are not sufficient, indeed a new book on this subject would seem desirable.

The geochemistry of bromine and the isotopes of sulphur are considered from a theoretical and practical viewpoint in as much detail as is consistent in a general book on evaporites.

In my opinion, a useful book giving a good coverage of the origin of evaporites but weaker on their diagenesis and geochemistry.

P. BUSH

BANCROFT (P.). *The world's finest minerals and crystals*. London (Thames & Hudson) and New York (Viking Press), 1973. 176 pp., 72 colour plates. Price £8.50 (\$28.50).

The objective here was to seek out and photograph some of the best minerals in the world. Collectors, dealers, and curators from all over the world were invited to submit nominations of the best example of mineral specimens known to them. From some 150 species nominated, a panel of judges and consultants chose 76, which were then photographed. Thus after a 26-page introduction on how minerals are formed, how some of the world's great collections were started, on some of the current hazards of collecting minerals, and on minerals as a three-dimensional art form, the rest of the book is a series of large colour plates each facing a brief text describing the general species illustrated and the source of the particular specimen chosen. The colour photographs are generally excellent but some of the specimens seem chosen for their size or rarity in a particular form rather than for their intrinsic beauty, e.g. the pink fluorite on quartz or the plate with black crystals (though admittedly large) of hauerite, skutterudite, boléite, and thorianite. Some of the specimens do indeed demonstrate the three-dimensional quality—as in the aquamarine crystals on a matrix of muscovite, albite, and tourmaline (Smithsonian), or the cerussite on matrix (Australian Museum). Of the specimens by themselves this reviewer's personal choice would be the bluish-green reniform smithsonite (Roger Williams, California) or the deep blood-red proustite (British Museum, Natural History), but here one is perhaps judging the photography or the lighting of the specimen, and in at least one plate—that of the

magnificent specimen of uvarovite crystals embedded in a quartz matrix (Sahama)—the colour printing can hardly be doing the specimen justice. A 'coffee-table' book, perhaps, but one which any mineralogist would be glad to have. R. A. H.

ANGINO (E. E.) and BILLINGS (G. K.). *Atomic absorption spectrometry in geology* (Methods in Geochemistry and Geophysics: 7). Second edition. Amsterdam, London, and New York (Elsevier), x+191 pp., 14 figs., 1972. Price Dfl. 32.20 (\$10.25).

This revised edition of the book, which first appeared in 1967, is an attempt to cover the rapid developments in the field of atomic absorption analysis from 1967 to 1971. This has been done by adding a large appendix to the original edition, taking up 44 of the 191 pages, and in its present form it is essentially two books in one. The book brings together a large amount of information that, although readily available in the literature, is valuable to geochemists to have in a single volume. It includes chapters on theory, instrumentation, and interferences with specific references to most analysable elements, and a substantial section on applications, which are most useful. However, the format adopted, of having the recent developments in a separate section, is more for the convenience of the author than the user.

Inevitably in a book of this size some aspects of the subject are not fully covered. In particular, the section on commercially available instruments is rather thin and of little relevance to the British market. The question of detection limits for the various elements is well covered, but little is said about the excellent precision and accuracy that can be achieved. This could have been more fully considered, perhaps at the expense of the chapter on the rather esoteric applications of atomic absorption to isotopic and noble gases analysis.

These criticisms aside, the book does cover an important and expanding analytical method. It will be of value not only to geochemists actively using atomic absorption but to geologists wanting a general introduction to the method and its potentialities.

J. N. WALSH

WOOD (D. N.), Editor. *Use of Earth Science Literature*. London (Butterworths), 1973. x+459 pp., 23 figs. Price £7.50.

The increasing volume of literature is making it more and more difficult to discover previously published information, and an urgent need has developed for up-to-date guides to primary and secondary sources of knowledge. Dr. Wood, of the National Lending Library, at Boston Spa, has written most of the fundamental chapters himself (Primary literature, Secondary literature—reference and review publications, Secondary literature—bibliographies, abstracts and indexes, Translations, and Foreign literature), and has gathered a formidable team of experts for chapters on various sections of the subject. In the chapter on Primary literature, Wood analyses the references in twenty publications and finds that 82 % were to periodicals; the *Mineralogical*