

REVIEW.

Guide to the Collection of Building Materials in the Natural History Museum of Vienna. [Führer durch die Baumaterial-Sammlung des k. k. Naturhistorischen Hofmuseums.] By Felix Karrer; with a Preface by the Editor, Dr. Aristides Brezina, Director of the Mineralogical Department. Small 8vo, 302 pages, with 40 illustrations. Vienna, 1892.

This guide is the first of the special catalogues which it is the intention of Dr. Brezina to issue for the various collections in the Mineralogical Department of the Natural History Museum in Vienna.

In the introduction, definitions and brief descriptions of the principal rock types are given, and the general plan of arrangement of the specimens is explained. The arrangement is in the first place a geographical one; each country, and in the case of Austria-Hungary each of the principal towns, is represented by a special collection: in each of these collections the various kinds of building material are distributed into groups according to the different uses to which they are applied, *e.g.* road metal, paving stones, building stones, decorative stones, roofing slates, artificial stones, etc.: in each of these groups the species are arranged according to their petrographical relations, and in each petrographical division according to their geological age.

A collection of building materials thus arranged, besides being of great practical value to the architect and builder, and affording considerable interest to the geologist, should also have its attractions for the general public, to whom it gives an opportunity of learning something of the nature and variety of the rocks and minerals employed in the construction of the towns in which they live. A small collection of this kind, to illustrate the several kinds of building material used in the town in which it is situated, would be a useful feature in all local museums. In the Vienna collection we notice that England is very poorly represented by a few specimens only of ornamental and artificial stones.

The guide is illustrated by photo-types of public buildings of many of the principal cities of Europe, with descriptions of the different kinds of stone used in their construction.