

BOOK REVIEWS

ALLER (Lawrence H.). *The Abundance of the Elements*. New York and London (Interscience Publishers), 1961. xi+282 pp. Price \$10.00.

This clearly written text provides an authoritative and up-to-date review of the abundance of the elements in several distinct assemblages: the earth's crust, the earth as a whole (mean composition), meteorites (the several classes separately and as a whole), meteors, gaseous nebulae, stellar atmospheres, cosmic rays. The abundances of the individual isotopes are discussed, and theories of the origin of the elements are considered and reviewed. While a large part of the book deals with stellar and cosmic problems, the subject is of direct importance to geologists, petrologists, and meteoriticists.

M. H. H.

COORAY (P. G.). *Geology of the Country around Rangala*. Geol. Surv. Ceylon, 1961, Mem. 2.

The report covers an area of 500 square miles in central Ceylon. The whole area consists of PreCambrian rocks. These have been divided, on the basis of their petrographical characters, into two main groups—the Vijayan group (mainly banded and granite gneisses) and the Highland Series (mainly meta-sediments with intrusive charnockites). The relationship of the two groups is obscure.

The Highland Series typically form parallel, regular folds having a NNW.-SSE. trend. The Vijayan Series, by contrast, show no regular fold system, although a dominant N.-S. trend can be distinguished.

P. M. G.

HENGLEIN (Martin). *Lötrohrprobierkunde. Mineraldiagnose mit Lötrohr und Tüpfelreaktion*. 4th edn, Berlin (Walter de Gruyter & Co.), 1962. Sammlung Göschen Bd. 483. 108 pp. Price DM 3.60.

The ancient art of blowpipe analysis is greatly neglected nowadays, but can still be very useful, and has the advantage of requiring little apparatus (and that portable) and few reagents. Prof. Henglein gives a sound account of the method and its applications. It is unfortunate that his choice of supplementary micro-crystal tests is far from ideal (though his title speaks of Tüpfelreaktion, these are not the Spot Tests of Feigl, but the older microchemical reactions of Behrens). So while