

appendixes, a bibliography, and an adequate index. If all such translations were so well presented, scientists might well start taking an interest in the history of their own subjects!

J. W. B.

WEIBEL (M.) *A guide to the minerals of Switzerland*. London (Interscience). xi+123 pp., 3 figs., 27 plates, 15 maps. Price 45s.

The title of this book should not mislead the ardent collector into believing that it will lead him to a wealth of collectable minerals. The book does, however, give a splendid account of the occurrence of minerals in the Alps and notes the rock types with which they are associated. A list is also given of the location of museums in which the finer specimens already collected may be seen.

The occurrence of the minerals in the so-called Alpine Clefs is described and those of the Central Massif of Aar and Gotthard are cited as typical examples. Some pointers to the appearance of potentially rewarding clefs are given such as the marginal leaching in fissures and the presence of splits and offsets in rock faces.

Individual minerals are described and their occurrence, form, and rock association are given in excellent tables: the colour plates of minerals are superb.

Considerable space is given to describing the regional occurrence of mineral associations. Regional maps show possible mineral collecting routes, most of them only for experienced climbers and walkers with great stamina.

Suggestions are made for planning excursions to collect minerals but the following paragraph would seem to daunt the potential collector. 'All the renowned localities are combed out so thoroughly that the probability of coming across a virgin cleft is very small for the inexperienced tourist.'

The information concerning regulations for mineral collecting and the need, in many cases, for permits to collect them leaves one with the feeling that this exciting Aladdin's cave excellently described, and beautifully illustrated in the book, is closed to all but a favoured few.

B. S.