

minéralogique de la France, No. 12). Orléans (B.R.G.M.), 1986. 176 pp., 25 maps. Price 86 F.

This second volume in this series to deal with the Ariège region covers the mineralogy of the east of the Department. This includes an area of Palaeozoic rocks showing varying grades of metamorphism associated with Hercynian granites. Extensive mineralisation has resulted in veins with lead, zinc, copper, and particularly iron minerals developed. In the style of this useful series, there are twenty-two locality sketch-maps, each with several 'indices' of either mine workings or outcrops and full directions on how to reach them. The later Mesozoic Tarascon basin in the centre of the region produces gypsum and anhydrite, sometimes with rutile and brown tourmaline.

R. A. HOWIE

Medenbach, O. and Wilk, H. *The Magic of Minerals*. Berlin, Heidelberg and New York (Springer-Verlag), 1986. 204 pp., 110 colour plates. Price DM 128.00.

In this English edition the original German text (1977) has been translated by J. S. White. It is interspersed with 110 large-format colour photographs of museum-quality mineral specimens which

are reproduced with the utmost clarity, though normally with larger-than-life images (the size of the original specimens is always quoted, from which it is clear that magnifications of $\times 2$ to $\times 10$ are involved). There are in reality two texts: one set in fairly large type gives an introduction to mineralogy, with generalisations on the structure and symmetry of minerals and their physical properties, occurrence and origin; the other in normal type describes the mineral species illustrated in the adjacent pages.

The colour reproduction and lighting is superb, giving mouth-watering photographs of beautiful specimens, making this the mineralogist's coffee-table book *par excellence*. Every page one turns offers new excitement. Amethyst, beryl, calcite and tourmaline are there—but so also are dufrenite, erythrite, kämmererite and picroparmacolite. The authors' philosophy is not spelt out in words, but is clearly shown in the aesthetically thrilling end-product. The text is in general accurate (though the Egremont calcite locality is twice assigned to Cornwall rather than Cumbria). This delightful book is surely going to be found on many mineralogists' want lists but its artistic qualities will surely give it a much wider market.

R. A. HOWIE