

the whole volume but is in fact more concerned with Sir Kingsley's own geological experiences over several decades. Actually the 'real world' alludes to the 'down-to-earth, field-based quality' of geology rather than to any conflict between academic and practising geologists.

The subject matter of the papers is extremely varied and most topics in geology are covered. However, almost half of the contributions are concerned with mineral deposits and exploration methods. I found several of the papers extremely interesting; for instance I can commend the photographs of a laboratory simulation of the opening of the Red Sea by Girdler, and the interesting discussion on more precise time-scales by House.

Publications such as this provide authors with a forum for synthesising data and developing new theories. Thus there are several 'reviews', 'views', 'thoughts' and 'reflections'. Some of these are novel but some appear to be a reworking of previously published material.

The coverage of this book is probably too broad to warrant purchase by individuals. I can only recommend that everyone looks at the full list of contents to see if there is anything directly relevant to their own interests.

H. M. ALDERTON

O'Donoghue, M. *The Literature of Mineralogy*. London (The British Library, Science Reference and Information Service), 1986. ii + 85 pp. Price £12, soft cover.

This brief guide to mineralogical literature is one of a range of bibliographies, guides, and newsletters, published by the British Library.

Given its unqualified title, and making due allowance for its slimness, one might reasonably expect greater breadth of coverage in a publication from so prestigious an institution; and one may presume that its oddly parochial flavour stems from editorial guidelines, rather than the author's choice. No general reference library can reasonably cover a particular group of related subjects as fully as can a more narrowly specialized library; but a literature guide, as distinct from a short catalogue, ought properly to do more than reflect, for the most part, the forgivable limitations of its parent.

Information is contained in the sixteen classified sections, plus a short list of useful addresses, that are sandwiched between the introduction and an index. Section headings include: 'Major reference monographs'; 'Abstracts'; 'Databases'; 'General comprehensive surveys'; 'Regional mineralogy'; and so on. In each section there are general comments, and selected titles (usually with acces-

sion number and classmark) are accompanied by a few words indicating their content or coverage.

Examples of limitation are the absence of the Russian, multi-volume *Mineralii*, edited by Chukrov, from the major monographs; of *Klockmann's Lehrbuch der Mineralogie* (16th edn., 1978), by Ramdohr and Strunz, from the general comprehensive surveys; and of numerous major works, such as Lacroix's *Minéralogie de la France et de ses colonies*, from a regional mineralogy section that over-emphasizes North America. This section would have benefitted from a reference to the still-invaluable 'Catalogue of topographical mineralogies and regional bibliographies', by L. J. Spencer (*Mineral. Mag.* 1948, **28**, 303-32).

We learn (twice, pp. 9, 66) that Chester's *A dictionary of the names of minerals* (1896) is not held by the British Library, without mention that it is held in the Mineralogy Library of the BM(NH). Goldschmidt's *Atlas der Krystallformen* is not owned, although nine of its plates are reproduced to pad out the page total to ninety-six; and a reference to its presence in the Mineralogy Library, BM(NH), is wrongly given (p. 29) as the Palaeontology Library. On this same page we also learn—to our surprise—that some works on crystallography are held by the British Library in 'Humanities and Social Sciences'.

In my opinion, this guide is grossly overpriced. In London alone, there are several excellent libraries—in addition to the British Library proper—to which outside readers are admitted; improved reference to their existence and holdings would greatly increase the usefulness of the next edition.

P. G. EMBREY

Hodgson, A. A. *Scientific Advances in Asbestos 1967 to 1985*. Crowthorne, Berkshire (Anjalena Publications), 1986. 186 pp., 15 figs. Price £56.00.

The two broad categories of commercial asbestos, amphibole and chrysotile, have attracted great attention in the past few decades. The asbestos industry has sought a better understanding of chemical and physical properties in order to improve the manufacture of asbestos-containing products. Over the same period, because of increased alarm over serious health hazards of asbestos dusts there has been more interest in medical and environmental aspects, and a tendency to search for non-asbestos material to substitute in many of its uses.

Reports of research on asbestos are scattered throughout the scientific literature, in Earth-science, industrial, chemical and other journals. In addition, since 1967 there have been four important