

and mineral prospecting companies in New Zealand since Williams went to press, and the scientific community will be only too aware how the results of such work are commonly lost to science. Dr. D. Kear, the editor of the present volume and a former Director of the New Zealand Geological Survey and Director General of the New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, has successfully solicited papers by company geologists recording activities in a wide variety of mineral prospects. Previous work and geological backgrounds are briefly reviewed together with prospecting methods, results, and actual or potential processing methods where applicable. Included are papers on various gold and gold-silver prospects, sulphur and halloysite deposits, titanomagnetite and ilmenite iron sands, scheelite, copper, nickel, and molybdenum mineralization, bismuth sulphosalts, and platinum group minerals. These papers are complemented by some more general reviews by DSIR scientists on the geological setting of mineralization in New Zealand, the Hauraki goldfield, placer gold mining, and non-metallic minerals, including a particularly interesting account of the submarine phosphorite deposits of the Chatham Rise.

Work in the period under review led to the reopening of a major gold-silver (electrum-acanthite) mine in the Hauraki epithermal goldfield, which is associated with Miocene volcanism. This is the Martha Hill pit at Waihi, and another large mine is planned for the Golden Cross prospect in the same field. Both alluvial and underground reef mining for gold and scheelite have taken place intermittently near Macraes in the province of Otago since 1862. Here gold- and scheelite-bearing quartz lodes are hosted in a shear zone in schist, and following investigations summarized in the volume a new large open-cut mine at Round Hill went into production in November, 1990. One important enterprise, the mining for export of the Waipipi iron sands, has ceased during the 1974-87 period, and in this case an epitaph is provided in the form of an account of the production history, mining and concentration processes, slurry-loading onto ore carriers, and land rehabilitation.

Perhaps more important than the accounts of the successful enterprises, are those documenting less well known activities, knowledge of which could so easily have been lost for most readers. The quality of the papers is inevitably uneven, specialists may sometimes wince at statements that are made, and proof-reading leaves something to be desired ('schistocity' appears so frequently in one paper that it can hardly be

ascribed to a mere typographic error). Nevertheless, workers who do not usually do so have recorded data of interest and have sometimes included further references to otherwise inaccessible reports. Dr. Kear himself has provided an extended bibliography. Past production figures are summarized in many cases, and some fascinating snippets are revealed, for example official gold production in New Zealand in 1986 was 1265 kg with a value of \$27.2 million, whereas one Auckland bullion exchange company alone is said to have handled around 2500 kg of West Coast placer gold in about the same year.

While not intended for professional mineralogists as such, the volume should prove a valuable source book for future workers involved in mineral exploration in New Zealand, and Dr. Kear is to be congratulated on bringing it together [M.A. 90M/3998-4034].

DOUGLAS S. COOMBS

Railton, C. T. and Watters, W. A. *Minerals of New Zealand*. Lower Hutt, New Zealand (N.Z. Geological Survey Bulletin 104), 1990. 89 pp., 38 photos., 3 maps. Price \$NZ 60.00 (\$US 60.00), including overseas airmail postage.

This publication is a welcome supplement to the widely used N.Z. Geological Survey Bulletin 32 (1927) by P. G. Morgan: *Minerals and Mineral Substances of New Zealand*. The main part is an alphabetical listing of minerals recorded in published form up to 1990 from New Zealand and its outlying islands. For each mineral the chemical formula, locality details, geological setting, availability of analytical data (with references), and associated minerals are listed. There is a bibliography of some 500 items, photographs of 38 representative minerals including photomicrographs in colour and SEM photographs. Appendices include an explanation of chemical formulae, a list of chemical elements and symbols, minerals arranged according to metallic elements they contain and Maori names for minerals.

The bulletin is intended for the professional geologist and mineralogist, but will also be of much interest to collectors and lapidarists.

R. A. HOWIE

Rothwell, R. G. *Minerals and Mineraloids in Marine Sediments: an optical identification guide*. Elsevier Science Publishers, 1989, 279 pp., 148 figs. Price £47.00.

The subtitle of the book accurately describes its purpose: it is an aid to the rapid identification of