

balanced and authoritative. The authors give proper emphasis to the geochemical workings of the natural world, so that human perturbations can be seen in their proper mineral structure and chemistry, although X-ray methods of identification are not covered. I also liked the Oceans chapter, which contrasts element cycling in the open oceans with human impact on an enclosed sea, illustrated by the Baltic. There are a few surprising omissions that may diminish the book's value for the option student for whom this is the only encounter with environmental science; for example, despite the Chernobyl anniversary, there is little mention of fission products and nuclear waste disposal. There is also no mention of the *combined* effect of SO<sub>2</sub> and smoke in London smogs, or the combined impact of acid rain and ozone on plants and forests, but there are limits to what can be packed into such a book of this size. Overall I recommend the book, especially for the chemically literate reader; it will provide an invaluable, up-to-date and stimulating source for first-year students in all branches of environmental science.

ROBIN GILL

Faithfull, J. *The Ross of Mull Granite Quarries*. Inverness (New Iona Press), 1995. 56 pp. Price £5.95 (+ £0.50 p&p). ISBN 0-9516283-6-4.

This booklet opens with a description of the geology of this Caledonian granite, including a geological map, and continues with a detailed account of the intermittent working of the granite quarries over the last 150 years (the Tormore quarry reopened in 1986). The Ross of Mull granite has a distinctive rich red colour when polished, and can be found used in bridges, docks, lighthouses and memorials, ranging from the Albert Memorial and pillars below Holborn Viaduct in London, to Dunrobin Castle, Skye, and docks and harbours in Glasgow, Liverpool and New York, as well as a memorial in Shandong Province, China, to the Scottish athlete and missionary Eric Liddell who died there in 1945. The book is well illustrated with maps, diagrams and photographs of the quarries, the cover being on a background of a colour photograph of a polished surface of this granite.

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