

BOOK REVIEWS

GEMS AND GEM MATERIALS. By EDWARD HENRY KRAUS and CHESTER BAKER SLAWSON. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. Third Edition, 1939. Pages 287.

Growing recognition of the value of the study of gem stones as a cultural subject is shown by the increase in the number of educational institutions offering systematic instruction in this subject in their curricula. In late years jewelers have displayed increased interest in obtaining scientific information relative to their wares in order that they might serve their clientele more efficiently. A marked growth in popular interest in the collecting and polishing of semi-precious stones as a use for leisure has been in evidence where such materials may be collected readily, particularly in the Pacific coast states. To these groups and all those having any interest in the collection, occurrence, properties, and preparation of gem stones the appearance of the third edition of *Gems and Gem Materials* will be a welcome event.

This edition is illustrated with four color plates which for beauty and accuracy of representation are unsurpassed in American publications. In addition there are 344 black and white illustrations which add greatly to the interesting presentation of subject matter. The systematic presentation of the text, which begins with the study of crystal forms and progresses through the physical, optical, and chemical properties of gems and closes with summarized data relative to the properties of individual gem materials, expands the comprehensive plan which was followed in earlier editions. The chapter on cutting and polishing of gems contains an exceptionally useful description of this art with the only detailed explanation yet published of the relationship of the atomic structure of the diamond to the technique of cutting. The chapter on manufactured gems, based on the senior author's investigations in Europe, supplies an unusually thorough treatment of this subject which must be understood by all students of gem materials.

The teacher charged with instruction in gem stones will find this text unequaled due to its arrangement and comprehensive treatment of all the factors related to gems. Those having either a scientific or general interest in gem materials will find the text to be accurate in detail and unusually readable due to its pleasing format. Price has been established at \$3.50 in spite of the expense associated with the introduction of color.

W. M. MYERS

THE STONE INDUSTRIES. By OLIVER BOWLES. Second Edition, 1939. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. Price \$5.00.

With the exception of statistical data which have been brought up to date, the second edition of *The Stone Industries* differs but little from the first edition of 1934. It continues to be the only single publication adequately covering the occurrence, technology and utilization of ornamental, dimension and crushed stone. For this reason it is particularly useful to investigators in this field and to those who have occasion to give instruction in this subject.

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