

this little book is useful so far as it goes, the authoritative synthesis of blowpipe reactions, micro-crystal reactions, and spot-tests that its title suggests remains only a hope for the future.

M. H. H.

WERNER (A. G.). *On the External Characters of Minerals*. A translation by CAROZZI (A. V.). Urbana (University of Illinois Press), 1962. xxxii+118 pp. \$4.50.

This book is a new English translation of A. G. Werner's treatise on descriptive mineralogy (oryctognosy) entitled 'Von den äusserlichen Kennzeichen der Fossilien' and published in 1774. It is the third English translation, the first being Thomas Weaver's in 1805, and the second that of the Wernerian Club in 1849-50. Werner's book consists of 5 chapters (217 sections) and deals first with the characters of minerals in general, the history of the external characters, and the accuracy with which these characters can be described. This is followed by an explanation of each of these characters, e.g. colour, cohesion, smell, taste (166 sections), and finally by three general rules for recording the characters determined. The value of the new translation lies in the fact that it is really the second Wernerian edition, made possible by the purchase by the Library of the University of Illinois of Werner's personal copy, which incorporated those changes and additions he would presumably have made if he had had the time and inclination to prepare the second edition.

In contrast to the previous English translations, that of Mr. Carozzi follows faithfully the original; the sections are given the same numbers, and Werner's page numbers are given in parenthesis in the text. Mr. Carozzi has carried out his task in a most scholarly manner.

A. A. Moss

CAMERON (Eugene N.). *Ore Microscopy*. New York and London (John Wiley & Sons, Inc.), 1961. 293 pp., 79s.

This volume fills one of the most deplorable gaps in geologic literature, and it will be appreciated by everyone interested in ore minerals and ore deposits. There are nine main chapters: (1) Introduction. (2) The ore microscope. This provides a concise and objective survey of various makes of ore microscopes. Special emphasis is put on accessory equipment required for quantitative work. (3) The preparation of polished surfaces. The detailed addresses of manufacturers of various items will