O'NEAL (R. A. H.). *Derbyshire lead and lead mining, a bibliography.* Matlock (Derbyshire County Library), 2nd edn, 1960. 68 pp.

This booklet will be valuable to anyone interested in the history of British metalliferous mines. The 457 entries range from Pliny and Agricola to the most recent works, and include manuscripts, university theses, newspaper articles, account books, etc., as well as published books and papers in scientific and caving journals. Many of these are preserved in the public libraries at Matlock, Buxton, Chesterfield, or Derby, and the whereabouts of most of the remaining items is also given. This second edition is excellently produced, with a good index. Since it already contains material only marginally relevant to lead-mining as such, its scope in future editions could be profitably extended to include more references to old papers on the mineralogy and geology of Derbyshire, such as are not readily traced through 'Mineralogical Abstracts' and other modern sources. G. RYBACK

LAWSON (Katheryn E.). *Infrared absorption of inorganic substances.* New York (Reinhold Publishing Corporation) and London (Chapman & Hall), 1961. 200 pp., 54*s*.

Infra-red absorption spectrophotometry is finding many mineralogical uses, both in structural studies and as an aid to identification. Information, on the other hand, is scattered in the literature, and a need has been felt for some time for reference works, particularly on the interpretation of spectra of crystalline inorganic compounds other than co-ordination compounds. Unfortunately, this book goes only a short way to meet this need.

The main part (pp. 86–187) consists of a list of references to published work, chronologically arranged but otherwise unclassified, and taken mostly from 'Chemical Abstracts' for 1952–58, inclusive, with some additions up to April 1960; the scope of the papers referred to is also given, unless clear from the titles. In spite of an adequate index, the list is difficult to use unless, for example, the references are transferred to a card index. In the well-documented section on spectra–structure correlations (pp. 14–76), diatomic and triatomic molecules are well treated, although in a standard fashion common to many text-books on physical chemistry. More complex structures are dealt with perfunctorily, and although it reflects to some extent the scantiness of the literature on this subject, this deficiency reduces the value of the section