

HEIDE (Fritz). *Meteorites. A translation by E. Anders and E. R. Du Fresne.* University of Chicago Press, 1964. x+144 pp., 109 figs., 24 tables. Price: \$6.50.

This book is a translation of the second edition of Heide's 'Meteoritenkunde' published in 1957, but the translators have collaborated with Professor Heide in making slight revisions, particularly in the section dealing with the age of meteorites, in order to bring the book up to date. The task has been carried out successfully, and this book forms an attractive introduction for the general reader—for whom it is intended. There are three sections, which deal with: fall phenomena; the nature of meteoritic matter; and the origin and formation of meteorites. In addition there is an appendix, in which tectites are briefly described and illustrated, together with indices of meteorites and meteorite craters. Apart from some minor errors, the worst of which are the replacements of figs. 39 and 40 without making the necessary alteration in the text, the only criticisms that can be levelled at this book are its high price (the German edition cost thirteen shillings!) and its striking but unattractive dust-cover.

A. A. Moss

KIRKALDY (J. F.). *Minerals and rocks in colour.* London (Blandford Press), 1963. 176 pp., 266 coloured illustrations, and 41 line drawings. 18s.

This is an elementary introduction to geology and mineralogy, directed at the general reader with little or no scientific training; I have found it very interesting and learnt a great deal as it is explained step by step in simple language. After a preliminary read through a careful study of the various chapters should give one a clear understanding of the elements of the subject. It should make an excellent book for Public Libraries, as so many people are interested in 'stones' and there are so few well-illustrated books that are not highly technical. There is a useful glossary, and the coloured photographs, while they fail to reproduce the peculiar lustre of many minerals, should be valuable to those who have not access to a good collection. [As this book is clearly directed to the general reader, it has been specially reviewed by a non-scientist. *Ed.*]

N. G.