

Those English-speaking geologists interested in rock fabrics no longer have any excuse for leaving unread this classic work, but when they get to the end of this excellent translation they may be left wondering if the ideas expressed at such length are really so revolutionary or useful as the disciples of the Sander school have suggested.

J. G. RAMSAY

PERRIN (R. M. S.). *The Clay Mineralogy of British Sediments*. London (Mineralogical Society) 1971. vi+247 pp. Price (paperback) £3.00 (£2.00 to members); \$7.50 (\$5.00 to members).

This is a useful work, which sets out to bring together the results of clay-mineral analyses of British rocks within two covers. These analyses are scattered through a wide range of geological and international literature, of research reports and in private files, and all those working in this field will have cause to be grateful to Dr. Perrin for this effective compilation.

The tables are arranged stratigraphically, though a geographical index is provided. Each sample is recorded with its stratigraphical horizon, a brief description of the gross lithology, its locality, and a National Grid Reference. The size of sample, its method of preparation and analysis, the laboratory used, and the date of analysis are given.

Analyses range from 1947 onwards, and in that time the nomenclature of clay minerals has undergone a series of changes; a process that will no doubt continue for some time to come. The author has very sensibly seen fit therefore to group his minerals under four headings only—kaolinite, mica, smectite, and chlorite; with a column for 'others' and for 'non-clay minerals'. Whilst the specialist might find this too broad a grouping, it is pointed out that it is these percentages that carry the stratigraphical and palaeogeographical implications. Each stratigraphical section is preceded by a short introduction, which outlines the main features of the age-group; and the book concludes with a chapter in which each of the clay groups is discussed in detail. This latter is a brief but succinct account of the origin and diagenesis of clay minerals in sedimentary rocks. Whilst this inevitably reflects the diverse opinions of the many authors whose work it summarizes, it does draw attention to some implications of clay-mineral distribution that may not have been appreciated, e.g. the remarks on the distribution of chlorite on pp. 209–10.

The book ends with the presentation of the results of a co-operative analytical study, in which four identical whole-rock samples and two preparations were submitted to seven different laboratories for analysis. The results are given in tabulated form; and the author hopefully concludes that there is broad agreement at a semi-quantitative level, although there are appreciable differences in detail. In general the results are probably better than most workers in this field might have expected.

The author and the Clay Minerals Group can be congratulated on their very practical production.

J. E. PRENTICE