

a shortage of new discoveries in North America, have caused speculation about the size of the petroleum reserves available for production in the world. At the same time proposals to extend coal mining into new areas have led to objections from some of those people already living there. New and larger nuclear power plants may involve hazards unacceptable to many people. Alternative, renewable, sources of energy may involve large-scale civil engineering work.

This book provides a concise illustrated survey of these matters, paying particular attention to North American experience. However, the author is more concerned to relate his subject to the organization and government of different societies. He also discusses the ethical relationship between producers and consumers of fossil fuels and mineral resources. There is an interesting account of how decisions are reached on the exploitation of new fuel reserves, but this chapter is illustrated only by U.S. examples. Consideration of planning processes in western Europe might have led to very different conclusions.

This book is well illustrated and can be recommended as good bedside reading to geologists generally and especially to those working in industry.

H. C. POTTER

Brown (J. Coggin) and Dey (A. K.). *The Mineral and Nuclear Fuels of the Indian Sub-continent and Burma: a guide to the study of the coal, oil, natural gas, uranium, and thorium resources of the area.* London and New Delhi (Oxford Univ. Press), 1975. xx+517 pp., 63 figs., 6 pls., 25 geol. sketch-maps. Price £26.00.

The principal attribute of this book is that it gives a useful survey of the geographical distribution and geological occurrences of energy resources in the region. But the book suffers in two important respects. First, the delay in publication has rendered the statistics on reserves and production of energy resources of little consequence: second, the title of the book does not accurately reflect its contents. Without much reference to the region, the book attempts to act as an introductory textbook on topics ranging from the origin of coals through to their processing and gasification: from the chemical composition of petroleum and the origin of hydrocarbons through to the role of the geologist in petroleum exploration. Regrettably, the book carries out this instructional role poorly.

In the chapter on radioactive minerals (40 pp.) some details are given of prospecting methods and of types of occurrence of uranium and thorium in India.

It is a pity that due to circumstances, many of which lay outside of the author's control, the book cannot be recommended except as a general survey of energy resources of the sub-continent and Burma in which specific statistics must be treated with caution.

D. G. MURCHISON

Smith (D. G. W.), editor. *Short Course in Microbeam Techniques.* Edmonton (Mineralogical Association of Canada), 1976. v+186 pp., 74 figs. Price \$ (Can.) 7.50.

This small book consists of six chapters written by authors who are all well known for their work in electron-probe microanalysis. The title is somewhat misleading as the book is essentially about electron microprobe analysis although there are very brief sections on S.E.M. (scanning electron microscopy) and the ion-probe analyser. There is, however, no mention of