

Bates (D. E. B.) and Kirkaldy (J. F.). *Field Geology in Colour*. Poole, Dorset (Blandford Press), 1976. 215 pp., 56 figs., 156 colour photographs. Price £2.75.

Most elementary textbooks seem to have been written as pot-boilers by uninspired specialists. If they are interesting to read, all too often they are factually unreliable. This little book is a delightful exception to these generalizations: up to date, well illustrated, easy to read, and remarkably comprehensive. It covers all the common aspects of geology in the field, from planning the work, recognizing structures and making a geological map, to what is worth noting about slumps to get the most information from them, and how to try to distinguish a sill from a lava flow. The emphasis is on field observation: it is not a handbook for mineral collectors.

The 156 photographs have been well selected and make good use of their colour, even if occasionally it is a little queer. Unusual in such a book, nearly a third of the photographs feature igneous and metamorphic rocks or mineral veins. They have been culled from some half-dozen countries, although most of them are British. The fact that some of them need, and get, diagrams to explain them, is a useful reminder for the beginner not to expect everything in the field to be obvious.

J. M. HANCOCK

Windley (B. F.), Editor. *The Early History of the Earth*. London and New York (John Wiley & Sons), 1976. x+619 pp., 222 figs., 8 geol. sketch-maps. Price £19.50.

This volume contains the text of 48 papers presented at the NATO Advanced Study Institute, held 5–11 April 1975, at the University of Leicester. The fourteen sections are on the early Earth–Moon system, general Archaean tectonics, high-grade regions, greenstone belts, tectonic relations between high- and low-grade regions, geochronology, thermal regimes, general geochemistry, palaeomagnetism, metallogeny, regional reviews, the atmosphere, the oceans, and life forms. Details of authors and titles of individual papers, with brief abstracts, are given in M.A. 77–1380.

R. A. H.

Mélon (J.), Bourguignon (P.), and Fransolet (A.–M.). *Les Minéraux de Belgique*. Dison, Belgium (G. Lelotte), 1976. 284 pp., 140 figs., 18 photos., 20 coloured pls. Price 1200 FB.

Since the inventory of Belgian minerals presented by H. Buttgenbach in 1947, more than fifty species new to Belgium have been described. In this work the authors have not only included all available data on such species but also have reviewed and checked earlier identifications with modern techniques. A total of 178 species is listed, the details including morphological and chemical data (with analyses where available) and a bibliography for each. Most of the crisp line-drawings are morphological. A dozen minerals described for the first time from Belgium are given particular attention and these specialities are well represented in the colour plates. Topographic and mineral indexes are included; over all the work contains more than 800 references to Belgian minerals.

R. A. HOWIE