

Dr Battey does provide descriptions of more non-silicate minerals but with this text most beginners would find it difficult to develop individual skills to identify a particular common mineral.

W. J. PHILLIPS

Narasimhamurty, T. S. *Photoelastic and Electro-optic Properties of Crystals*. New York and London (Plenum Press), 1981. xxx + 514 pp., 93 figs. Price \$37.50.

This work is a comprehensive study beginning with the discovery by David Brewster in 1815, of the influence of pressure on the birefringence of crystals. The discovery of the effects of an electric field on the birefringence came much later, the Kerr

effect in 1875 and, what is now known as the Pockels effect, in 1883. The treatment of these subjects in this book is self-contained. All the mathematics is set out in such detail that it is possible to follow the analysis easily. Tensors and group theory are well explained. The subjects are developed historically and descriptions of the apparatus used in the classical experiments is given. The whole field from the initial discovery up to the present time is described.

The bibliography includes 1618 entries and there are eleven tables of the various photoelastic and electro-optic constants for all the crystals which have been studied.

The book can be most warmly recommended as a definitive contribution to this subject.

W. A. WOOSTER