

(glass wool, rock wool and slag wool), and aluminized glass fibre textiles.

Chapter 3 deals with health risks from asbestos and from its alternatives since the latter as well as asbestos may contain durable and respirable fibres. The medical conditions, pleural plaques, asbestosis, pleurisy, pleural thickening, lung cancer and mesothelioma are briefly explained, and for each potential substitute, particle size, shape, durability, *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments, and epidemiology are considered. This chapter is perhaps too short to do justice to its topics.

Readers may have a sense of *déjà vu*, explicable on account of a recent publication with similar title 'Alternatives to asbestos and asbestos products', 2nd Edn., 1987 (reviewed *Min. Mag.*, 1989, **53**, 516–7). This differs in being entirely by A. A. Hodgson and having an even shorter treatment of medical aspects. Each of the publications is well written and produced and is a valuable reference text, but there is a great deal of commonality, and a gap of longer than two years between them would have been preferable. Yet another book on asbestos (Skinner *et al.*, 1988) was reviewed in *Min. Mag.*, 1989, **53**, 663–4.

J. ZUSSMAN

Pichler, H. *Italienische Vulkangebiete V. Mte Vulture, Äolische Inseln II, (Salina, Filicudi, Alicudi, Panarea), Mti. Ibléi, Capo Pássero, Ústica, Pantelleria und Linosa*. Berlin and Stuttgart (Gebrüder Bomtraeger), 1989. x + 272 pp., 11 maps. Price DM 54.00.

A useful field guide for an assortment of localities of volcanological interest in southern Italy and the Mediterranean. For the majority of localities an overview of the geology, petrology and minera-

logy is supplied along with a road log and a geological map (fold out). Extremely useful for those groups wishing to venture beyond the easily accessible Aeolian Islands [covered in Part III of this series (Lipari, Vulcano and Stromboli)] to the more westerly islands of Ustica, Alicudi and Filicudi (calc-alkaline and potassic volcanics). Details of Linosa and Pantelleria between Sicily and the African mainland are also supplied. Localities on the Italian mainland include Mte Vulture east of Naples and the Iblean Hills and Capo Pássero in southeastern Sicily. A good bibliography up to 1988 is supplied for each locality. Very useful guide that requires a group member to be fluent in German—if not, use the maps, sketches and photographs as a field guide.

M. A. MENZIES

Mercer, I. F. *Crystals*. London (Natural History Museum Publications), 1990. 60 pp. Price £4.95.

This illustrated guide combines a wealth of coloured photographs and diagrams with the minimum of explanatory text in a stunning introduction to the role of crystals in the natural world. It was particularly written to inform museum visitors, but could not fail to inspire any young naturalist to want to know more. Shapes and structures, optical properties, occurrence and uses are all highlighted, but it is the many beautiful photographs which will make the greatest impression on the reader. The author and his team of photographers and advisers have done a superb job.

A. HALL