

and Shubnikov although they are alluded to in the Preface. A few misprints were noted, among them 'Mg₂AlO₄', 'Schottsky', and on p. 410 'kainite' should read 'kyanite.' The octahedral cleavage of bismuth-containing galena is suggested to be due to organic impurities, but this has been shown to be due to the precipitation from solid solution of oriented lamellae of a bismuth compound. A closer and more fundamental correlation also could have been made with allied phenomena in other fields, especially metallurgy and surface- and colloid-chemistry. Buckley's book, however, in spite of its shortcomings, goes far to fill the long-standing need for a survey text in English on crystal growth.

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Elements of Optical Mineralogy: an Introduction to Microscopic Petrography. Part II. Descriptions of Minerals with Special Reference to their Optical and Microscopic Characters. By A. N. WINCHELL, with collaboration of H. WINCHELL. Pp. xvi+551, with 427 figs. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman and Hall. 4th ed. 1951. Price \$12.50; 100s.

The third edition of Winchell's book appeared in 1933 and covered 442 pages of text with 362 text figures. The present revised edition, though larger by ninety pages and an addition of more than fifty illustrations, follows the general pattern of its well-known predecessor. Descriptions of most of the minerals recorded since 1930 have been incorporated and a number of discredited species, though not all, have been omitted. There have been some changes in nomenclature, particularly the adoption, which will be welcomed, of N_Z , N_Y and N_X in place of N_p , N_m and N_r and the application of Schuster's rule, previously confined to the feldspars, to the extinction angles of other monoclinic and triclinic minerals.

The greatest change in treatment is in that of the silicates. In the third edition many silicates (described in 43 pages) were placed under the heading 'silicates not yet classified by X-ray studies'. In the new edition this heading has disappeared. The nomenclature of the structural classification now follows closely that of Strunz (*Mineralogische Tabellen*, 1941) and the classification is extended to all silicates though it is clearly recognised that with many rarer types the X-ray data are still to be sought. Furthermore, for each mineral, where that is possible, a brief statement of X-ray data under the heading 'structural' is now added. As a result of the new data, a considerable number of minerals has been given new crystallographic elements (compared to those in the third edition) but without corresponding change in the accompanying figure relating the position of the indicatrix axes to the morphology. Discrepancies thus occur between some of the text descriptions and the related figure. Either the diagrams should have been revised, or, if that was thought inadvisable, a note of indication of the discrepancy added for the benefit of the reader.

A conspicuous feature of the book is the wealth of diagrams purporting to present the relation between chemical composition and physical (principally optical) properties. The number of such diagrams has been increased from 56 to over 120 in the new edition. A continual striving to attain precise relationships of this kind is in the forefront of mineralogical investigation, but the student should be warned, in view of the present lack of accurately tied data, to treat many of these diagrams with reserve. Some that are presented are so confused with inconsistent data that they should have been omitted—notably those depicting relationships in the chondrodite, cordierite and beryl series. Some other diagrams are of doubtful value. In the treatment of the amphiboles, it is difficult to see the purpose of inserting the complex triangular prism diagrams for 'eight end members (calciferous hornblende)' shown in figures 14 and 15, and repeated in figures 318 and 325; or again for that of the montmorillonite system in figure 275.

The section devoted to the feldspars, profusely illustrated as before, has been increased by seven pages, principally by an exposition of Nieuwenkamp's method (1948) for the determination of the plagioclase feldspars in random sections. The exposition is insufficiently detailed to be applied by the student without reference back to Nieuwenkamp's memoir, and in a book of this character a much briefer statement should have sufficed. The revision of the feldspar section was fated to be completed before the recent notable advances on the polymorphism and in the thermal and X-ray study of this group had been recorded (1950), and much of the section will accordingly need to be rewritten in the light of these later researches.

Despite some shortcomings to which reference has been made in the preceding paragraphs, Winchell's book retains the deservedly high reputation it enjoyed through successive earlier editions as the outstanding compendium on the optical properties of minerals and as a standard of reference indispensable to every research worker in the field of mineralogy and petrology.

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Phase Transformations in Solids. Edited by R. SMOLUCHOWSKI, J. E. MAYER and W. A. WEYL. Pp. 660 with many figures and tables. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman and Hall. 1951. Price \$9.50; 76s.

Au cours du dernier Conseil de Physique Solvay, Sir W. L. Bragg rappelait que l'on pouvait, il y a quarante ans, réunir des 'physiciens' pour parler de 'physique'. Maintenant, l'on ne saurait songer à une telle réunion sans en délimiter étroitement le sujet. Et, même dans un tel cadre, les spécialistes sentent souvent qu'ils sont loin d'être au courant de tout ce qui leur est nécessaire.

C'est pourquoi, maintenant, les livres écrits par un seul homme sont remplacés peu à peu par des œuvres collectives où sont rassemblés les articles d'un grand nombre d'auteurs traitant les différents aspects d'une question. Tel est le cas de *Phase Transformations in Solids* qui reproduit les communications et—très sommairement d'ailleurs—les discussions d'un Symposium tenu à Cor-