Clays and Clay Minerals. Fifth National Conference on Clays and Clay Minerals. University of Illinois, October 8–10, 1956. Sponsored by Committee on Clay Minerals of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, and University of Illinois. Ada Swineford, Editor, State Geological Survey, University of Kansas. Thomas F. Bates, Norman Plummer, William F. Bradley, Monroe H. Waxman and Charles E. Weaver, Associate Editors. The National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C. 1958. vii + 360 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. Price, \$4.50.

For 4 of the 5 Annual Conferences on Clays and Clay Minerals the collections of contributed papers have been published in book form under these auspices. It would be difficult to imagine a better cross-sectional view of the remarkable strides made in recent years by the science of clays, clay minerals, clay chemistry and clay technology, than is provided by these volumes. The one just published covers the 1956 Conference, and comprises 28 papers, 27 of which are research contributions. Of these 12 are from universities, 8 from industries, primarily by petroleum geologists, and 7 from governmental surveys or bureaus. The impression immediately gained is the very high level of modern instrumental techniques generally known and used by chemists and here employed by these experts of established reputation in the fields of geology, mineralogy and ceramics. Fifteen of the investigations have utilized X-ray diffraction, one of the powerful tools for identification and study of behavior of clays and clay minerals. The electron microscope gives strikingly convincing aid in at least 3; electrical measurements, differential thermal analysis, densities, rheology, sorption and surface area measurements, phase rule, kinetics and statistical methods are further approaches demonstrating the solid scientific status of a science of many ramifications which not so long ago was purely descriptive. A real service is performed by bringing together and integrating these new findings from a wide variety of sources, first in a Conference and then in a permanent record. One might wish to know where there were healthy differences of opinions and constructive discussions on some of the topics. Perhaps these off-the-record ideas will set the tone for the succeeding national conferences. The papers seem to be uniformly well written, documented and illustrated and certainly carefully edited by Editor Swineford and her associates.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

January 10, 1959-Pebruary 10, 1959

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