BOOK REVIEW

IDENTIFICATION AND QUALITATIVE CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF MINERALS

In 1940 the author published a handbook of minerals under the title "Mineral Identification Simplified." This earlier text of 271 pages listed over 2000 minerals and consisted essentially of tables based largely on the two important physical properties of specific gravity and hardness (reviewed in Am. Mineral., 25, p. 767).

The present enlarged text of 351 pages, while based on the same underlying principles as the earlier work, has a number of innovations which are aimed to assist the student in the identification of minerals. In this expanded edition, under a new title, greater stress is placed on wet qualitative tests of the elements, including many of the rare earths, to supplement the strictly blowpipe reactions and the physical properties.

It seems that an unnecessarily large amount of space (about 20 pages) has however been devoted to detailed instructions for constructing "home made" balances for specific gravity determinations and a chemical "portable laboratory" for field work.

Perhaps the most unique feature of the book is the very large number (20 pages) of colored illustrations which attempt to depict the natural color of minerals, the reactions on charcoal, plaster tablet, bead tests and the appearance of a few minerals when exposed to ultra violet light. Some of these colored plates are without question very good and should prove extremely helpful; however many are of questionable merit.

As the book covers a wide field of mineralogic information including both the chemical and physical properties it should prove a very handy reference manual for the mineralogist, geologist and chemist.

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