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**Historical Geology.** *Carl O. Dunbar.* John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. Second edition, 1960. xi+500 pp. \$7.95.

This most recent addition to a famous series of textbooks retains the pattern and advantages of its predecessors. Consequently it will be regarded with favor by those who have used and admired the earlier works; teachers who have been waiting for a new departure in textbooks of historical geology—say a regional approach—will be disappointed. The organization, of chapters and within chapters, of the new edition is almost identical to that of the first. A number of changes of detail have been made—mostly addition of new information and conclusions and revisions of historical interpretations. The chapter on cosmic history, especially, has been improved. Most of the illustrations from the earlier edition have been enlarged and used in the new one. (The publishers have adopted the wide-page double-column format.) A number of illustrations have been added. All illustrations are much more attractive than those in the older work. The paleogeographic maps have lost their clouds, some have been modified, and others have been omitted. Unfortunately the book suffers from a rash of typographical errors in the tables and picture captions, but these doubtless will be removed in later printings.

MALCOLM P. WEISS

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**Mineral Equilibria at Low Temperature and Pressure.** *Robert M. Garrels.* Harper & Brothers, New York. 1960. xvi+254 pp. \$6.00.

A possible subtitle for this book might be: Examples of the applicability of the theory of electrolytic solutions to the formation of minerals. The author has surely taken a step in the right direction by bringing together this information in convenient and readable form.

Most unfortunately, the entire topic of silicate chemistry (precipitation, dissolution, and interaction of silicates, phosphates, etc.) has been ignored, except for one incidental example involving  $\text{FeSiO}_3$ . In view of the superabundance of silicate minerals and their authigenic occurrences in sediments, the only justifiable reason for the exclusion of this very important topic is the inadequacy of the data. Nevertheless, I believe that Professor Garrels might have performed a very useful service merely by emphasizing the fundamental differences which exist between the chemical kinetics of silicate and non-silicate aqueous systems.

This work represents a fifteenth title in the geoscience series of this publisher and the second authored by Professor Garrels, Harvard University.

DUNCAN MCCONNELL

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**A Manual of Common Beetles of Eastern North America.** *Elizabeth S. Dillon and Lawrence S. Dillon.* Row, Peterson and Company, Evanston, Illinois, 1961. viii+884 pp. \$9.25.

The authors intend this book for naturalists, amateur collectors, students, and professionals interested in Coleoptera. It includes beetles of eastern half of North America west to 100th meridian and south to Mexico, and is based on approximately 1200 species in 64 families.

Four color plates of adults, two outline plates showing structure, two showing types of larvae, seventy-seven plates of good assembly drawings and 544 figures illustrating characters are included.

Methods of collecting, killing, preserving, pinning and labeling are included as well as an explanation of structure and use of keys, with glossary in back.

Ecology is explained with reference to water, soil, plants and other animals.

Keys to families, tribes and more common genera and species are given, as well as descriptions of species.

The bibliography is divided into: general; ecology; baits and trapping; and arrangement by families. State and Canadian lists of insects are included as well as a listing of dealers in literature and supplies. There is also an index to species.

Most of the assembly drawings are good enough to identify families and the manual should serve a useful purpose.

J. N. KNULL