

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Atlas and Glossary of Primary Sedimentary Structures.** *F. J. Pettijohn and Paul Edwin Potter.* Springer-Verlag, New York. 1964. xv+370 p. \$14.75.

If a single picture is worth a thousand words, then this fine new book is worth almost two hundred thousand. It contains almost 200 photographs of outstanding quality, illustrating all kinds of sedimentary structures. Thin, thick, uneven, channelled, imbricate, graded, and rhythmic bedding structures are shown, as well as many other sedimentary structures: cross bedding, "pillow" structure, raindrop and ice-crystal impressions, tracks, effects of contemporaneous deformation, etc. Organization of the many kinds of structures is based on a simple but useful classification presented in an introduction, while a glossary provides a brief description of each structure. Both introduction and glossary are keyed to plate numbers. Both also refer extensively to the literature; an excellent bibliography is included.

One of the most exciting features of this book is its multi-lingual nature. All sections—preface, introduction, plate captions, and glossary—are presented in four languages: English, German, French, and Spanish. In addition, following the glossary, there are lists of sedimentary structure terms in German, French, and Spanish with their English equivalents, increasing the value of the book for those not conversant in English and those concerned with geology in another language.

According to the authors, the book has been designed for "students to whom the entire subject is new and whose field study of sedimentary structures is just beginning," in the belief that, "Inadequate observation of sedimentary structures has been responsible for incorrect interpretation of the order of superposition in deformed beds and this has led, in turn, to gross errors in stratigraphy and structure." But actually, this book will be popular with all, because of the fine quality, artistically and geologically, of the photographs.

JANE L. FORSYTH

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**The Development of Modern Chemistry.** *Aaron J. Ihde.* Harper and Row, Publishers, New York. 1964. xii+851 p. \$13.50.

The author states his objective and describes his book as follows: "*The objective of this book, therefore, has been to portray the flow of events which brought chemistry from its primitive unspectacular state in 1750 to its dramatic vigor in the present day.* I have sought to give proper attention to the part played by individuals without making the account a series of biographical sketches. At the same time I have attempted to place chemistry in the framework of the times. It has influenced human life in major ways, particularly in the nature of industrial and agricultural activity. At the same time, the growth of chemistry has been influenced by human affairs—political, economic, and social. These interactions I have sought to reveal." The author realizes his objectives.

His first chapter is a prelude to chemistry from which he carries the reader in a quite thorough manner to the present time. He divides his subject matter for the more recent times into the area of the several classical divisions of chemistry, then concludes with a chapter on Growth and Problems. Four appendixes are included on the Discovery of the Elements, Discovery of Radioactive Isotopes, Radioactive Decay Series, and Nobel Prize Winners in Chemistry, Physics and Medicine. A very thorough and well evaluated set of bibliographical sources is included covering the general references and also references for each chapter.

The book teaches both chemistry and the history of chemistry—an adequately thorough job. The printing is good, the format is adequate but dull and sort of musty, the writing is clear, the price is high.

The book would be excellent for a senior course of chemistry majors on the history of chemistry. It is also a valuable ready reference book for all of us.

ALFRED B. GARRETT

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**Weather.** *Philip D. Thompson, Robert O'Brien and Editors of Life.* Life Science Library, Time Inc., New York. 1965. 200 p. \$3.95.

Another volume in the valuable Life Science Library series. The outstanding pictures and easily read text will provide any interested person with information about modern meteorology. The factors involved in world weather are explained and the methods of weather forecasting surveyed. The fact that the federal government spent 170 million dollars in 1963 for support of meteorological studies or that a summer thunder storm releases as much energy as a dozen Hiroshima-type bombs should impress the reader with the importance of understanding the subject of this fascinating book.

E. D. RUDOLPH