
The Study of Rocks in Thin Section. *W. W. Moorhouse.* Harper & Brothers, New York. 1959. xvii+514 pp. \$8.00.

This admirable book is so written that it may serve as a text for the student, a manual for the practicing geologist, and a sort of first-reference source for both. A summary of the methods of optical mineralogy, descriptions of the plentiful rock-forming minerals (with 18 fine plates of microphotos), and tables for mineral identification are brought together with the petrographic and petrologic material. This mineralogic section occupies about 30% of the pages of the book. The rock groups, including all of the important ones, are arranged under four main sections—igneous (37%), sedimentary (13%), metamorphic (16%), and ores (3%). The altered rocks are grouped according to their general mode of alteration—dynamic, thermal, regional, metasomatic.

Both the arrangement and the content of each section concerning a clan of rocks are excellent, and the uniformly systematic treatment of topics is very helpful. This book is not designed to serve the specialist; its value is the juxtaposition of petrography and petrology, as well as its breadth and quality. The combination of petrography and petrology suggests Grout's text of that name, but only thin section petrography is included in the present book.

MALCOLM P. WEISS