
Geology and Ourselves. *F. H. Edmunds.* Philosophical Library, Inc., New York. First edition, 1956. 256 pp. \$10.00

As the title indicates, this is a book on geology for the layman. The author assumes that the reader can understand words of more than two syllables but that he is unacquainted with the jargon of the specialist. The first chapter summarizes the beginnings of the science, and the next four introduce the reader to minerals and rocks, fossils, maps, and geologic history. The remainder of the book is devoted primarily to economic applications of geology in water supply, structural engineering, mining for coal and ores, exploration for oil and gas, and agriculture. The final chapter is on geology for the amateur. The book is illustrated with thirteen photographs and numerous line drawings.

The author, a member of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, writes well and communicates his own enthusiasm for the subject. He has taken, however, a relentlessly provincial point of view. The whole discussion of geological principles is based on the local rock record, and virtually every example of applied geology is from the British Isles. Although the author expresses the hope that the book will have "more than an insular appeal," this is exactly what it does not have. *Geology and Ourselves* is strongly recommended to those readers of this review who happen to live in the Cotswold Hills, the Midlands, or the Lake Country.

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