Notes and News

Announcements and other items of crystallographic interest will be published under this heading at the discretion of the Editorial Board. Copy should be sent direct to the British Co-editor (R. C. Evans, Crystallographic Laboratory, Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, England).

Acta Crystallographica: important notice

The Executive Committee regrets that the growing size of this journal and rising costs of production make an increase in price unavoidable. As from the beginning of Volume 5, to be published in January 1952, the subscription price per volume will be £5 or its equivalent in other currencies. At the same time it is hoped to make arrangements whereby individual crystallographers may obtain the journal for their private use at the reduced subscription of £3. Details of this scheme will be announced as soon as possible.

Readers are reminded that subscriptions to the current volume expire on the appearance of Part 6 to be published on 10 November 1951. To ensure continuity of supply, orders for Volume 5, with remittance, should be placed through the usual channels as soon as possible, and in any case in time to reach the publishers in London not later than 31 December 1951.

International Union of Crystallography

The Second General Assembly and International Congress of the Union was held in Stockholm from 27 June to 3 July 1951 and was followed by Symposia on Advanced Techniques in Structure Determination and on Electron Diffraction in Liquids and Gases held on 4 and 5 July 1951. A brief account of the proceedings at these meetings will be published later, but detailed abstracts of the 230 papers read at the Congress and Symposia may be obtained from the Secretary of the Local Committee (F. E. Wickman, Stockholm 50, Sweden), price 7 Swedish kronor, post free.

Book Reviews

Works intended for notice in this column should be sent direct to the Editor (P. P. Ewald, Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, 99 Livingston Street, Brooklyn 2, N.Y., U.S.A.). As far as practicable books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.

An Index of Mineral Species and Varieties Arranged Chemically, with an Alphabetical Index of accepted Mineral Names and Synonyms. By M. H. Hey. Pp. xx+609. London: printed by order of the Trustees of the British Museum. 1950. Price 30*s*.

This useful and convenient work of reference comprises two main parts: a catalogue of minerals arranged according to their qualitative chemical composition, and an alphabetical list of about 12,000 mineral names. For each of the names in the latter list a reference is given to standard text-books or to periodicals where a summary description can be found. The status of the name as a species, variety or synonym also is indicated, and a finding-number is cited to the chemical catalogue. The chemical catalogue is essentially a determinative scheme based on qualitative analysis. The classification employed is based primarily on a separation into anions and then into metals arranged in the order of the periodic table. The silicates, comprising about one-third of all entries, are arranged differently. These are broken down into four special groups: silicates with other anions, silicates not containing aluminum, silicates containing aluminum and no other metal, and silicates containing aluminum and other metals. The main categories of classification and the individual substances entered therein are numbered. Anorthite, $CaAl_2SiO_7$, thus has the finding-number 16.9.2 [section 16 (silicates containing aluminum and other metals), subsection 9 (aluminosilicates of calcium), entry 2 following gehlenite, $Ca_2Al_2SiO_7$, 16.9.1]. Cross-references are given whenever they are of value, as in the case of minerals containing two or more different anions. The general handling of the chemical formulation is accurate and critical, and attests to the author's wide knowledge of mineral chemistry. Among the very few errors of fact noted may be mentioned the listing of uraconite as a species instead of as a synonym of uranopilite, and the classification of meta-autunite and meta-torbernite as varieties of autunite and torbernite, respectively. The structure study of Beintema (1938) has shown that the meta phases are distinct hydrates, and at least meta-torbernite occurs as a species in nature.

Virtually all known mineral names are included in the chemical catalogue, whether good, bad or indifferent. The general status of the name is indicated by type size or textual comment, and a concise, documented discussion is frequently given of substances whose relations are problematic. A number of named artificial compounds are included. It seems unfortunate that Dr Hey has rejected Schaller's scheme of adjectival modifiers to describe compositional variation in minerals. The systematization of nomenclature in this way is a natural expression of the modern concept of minerals as phases that vary serially in composition between natural limits. It would seem advisable to follow the trend toward fewer and more meaningful names, rather than to preserve the chaotic nomenclature that has stemmed largely from the older notion of species as constituting phases of essentially fixed composition.

The necessarily brief and sometimes inadequate indication of the status of the names included in the chemical catalogue may cause trouble for a non-specialist who, concerned with a practical problem of identification, may run a substance down through the classification and then unknowingly be confronted, not with an identification,