Books Received

The following books have been received by the Editor. Brief and generally uncritical notices are given of works of marginal crystallographic interest; occasionally a book of fundamental interest is included under this heading because of difficulty in finding a suitable reviewer without great delay. Mention here does not necessarily preclude a full review at a later date.


Handbook No. 1 contains data on the general, chemical, electrical, mechanical, nuclear, optical, structural, and thermal properties of approximately 520 refractory materials. The materials discussed include borides, carbides, nitrides, oxides, silicides, and certain elements. It is intended to facilitate data retrieval over a wide field, and there are nearly 700 references. It was originally published by The Carborundum Company in 1963.

Handbook No. 2 is a translation from the Russian, the original having appeared in Moscow in 1963. The author has, however, revised the data for the English edition, which includes many references dated 1962 and some dated 1963. In it the information is arranged by property instead of by chemical composition, and it includes a somewhat wider range of refractories.

The two volumes are complementary, partly because of the converse methods of arrangement adopted, and partly because No. 1 is strong on U.S.A. sources and No. 2 on U.S.S.R. sources, which account for some 500 of the 1300 references. If only one of the pair is to be bought, volume 2 would probably be the choice.


This book gives a coherent picture of the modern concept of hydrothermal ore-forming processes. It treats, from a thermochemical standpoint, the processes by which various ions can be transported in solution and typical minerals can be deposited. There are 206 references, and detailed author and subject indexes.


Monograph 15 contains the text of about 40 papers presented at a meeting organized by the European branch of the Organic Geochemistry Group in Milan from 10–12 September 1962. The subjects bulking largest are naturally petroleum and coal, but seven papers deal specifically with analytical techniques, and three papers with the vexed question of the interpretation of the organic matter in carbonaceous meteorites.


As the title implies, this book is almost entirely mathematical. Chapter I gives a review of spin-relaxation phenomena. The author's own contributions to the subject are contained mainly in the rather longer Chapter II on the theory of spin–spin relaxation, and the main part of the book concludes with a short survey of the theory of spin-lattice relaxation. There are six mathematical appendices.


The theory of Keplerian motion, with applications to space flight.


A good introductory account of this new and fascinating field. The techniques and applications relate to solid-state physics rather than to crystallography. Dare one hope that strong coherent sources can be developed for the X-ray region also?