

*Acta Cryst.* (1980). A36, 334

### 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.*

**Geochemistry of colloid systems.** By S. YARIV and H. CROSS. Pp. xii + 450. Springer-Verlag, 1979. Price DM 110.00, US \$60.50.

**Polyhedra primer.** By P. PEARCE and S. PEARCE. Pp. viii + 134. Van Nostrand, 1978. Price £4.45. This general-interest, low-cost booklet is addressed to anyone from school pupil upwards, who would like to build his own polyhedra and assemble them into 3D space structures. Not a textbook, but a handbook, it leads from the definition of acute and obtuse angles to polygons, plane tessellations, polyhedra, and finally to big complex architectures in space. All the diagrams are of unparalleled clarity.

**Molecular spectroscopy. Vol. 6.** By (Senior Reporters) R. F. BARROW, D. A. LONG and J. SHERIDAN. Pp. viii + 328. The Chemical Society (London), 1979. Price £33.00, US \$84.00.

**Crystal growth: theory and techniques, Vol. 2.** Edited by C. H. L. GOODMAN. Pp. x + 191. New York: Plenum Press, 1978. Price \$29.40. A review of this book, by T. Seiyama, has been published in the February 1980 issue of *Journal of Applied Crystallography*, page 106.

**Gemology.** By C. S. HURLBUT JR and G. S. SWITZER. Pp. xii + 253. Wiley (Interscience), 1979. Price £13.50.  
**Man-made gemstones.** By D. ELWELL. Pp. 191. Ellis Horwood (a division of Wiley), 1979. Price £15.00.

These two very attractive books, coincidentally published at the same time, are both popularisations of the science and art of gem-making.

Hurlbut and Switzer's book is the more comprehensive, covering virtually all aspects of natural and artificial gems, including notes on their history, a lot of good science and a feast of technological detail. It is particularly well illustrated: the colour photographs are of outstanding quality and interest (showing, for example, even the colour variations of Tanzanite). Elwell's book is also detailed and well illustrated and thorough but is confined to man-made products. Fascinating reading throughout, its Appendix No. 3 is entitled, *How to grow your own rubies*.

Both these books are highly recommended for school or other 'popular' libraries.