

majority are described in Groth's *Chemische Krystallographie*, while some additional to those in Groth have been obtained from Donnay & Melon's *Crystallo-Chemical Tables*, and other sources.

The first volume of the *Index* will be published in June 1951 (Cambridge: Heffer; price £6). The first part of this volume, containing introductory matter, will also be made available separately (price 35s.). The published *Index* will contain, not merely tables of angles, but as complete a description of the substance as possible, so far as concerns the properties which are useful for determinative work. Thus, besides the Barker classification angles, the melting-points, optical properties, specific gravity and X-ray diffraction data are all included, and are also indexed. In addition, reference is made to literature where chemical information about the substance can be obtained. Where possible, references have been made to some standard work, in addition to Groth, such as Beilstein, Mellor, Heilbron, etc. and the American Society for Testing Materials.

This brief note cannot give credit to all who have worked to bring the *Index* to the stage of publication, but,

apart from the workers at Oxford, the *Index* owes much to a Dutch group of crystallographers working under Prof. Terpstra, to Prof. Donnay and Prof. Melon, to Dr Hey of the British Museum (Natural History) and to Dr G. M. Bennett, Government Chemist.

Numerous industrial companies and scientific bodies have also helped with grants.

Further information may be obtained from the Secretary of the *Barker Index* Committee, Research Department, Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., Nobel House, 2 Buckingham Gate, London S.W. 1, England.

A. E. J. VICKERS

### American Society for Metals

The American Society for Metals announces a World Metallurgical Congress to be held in Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. during the period 15-19 October 1951 simultaneously with the Annual National Metal Congress and National Metal Exposition. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, American Society for Metals, 7301 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland 3, Ohio, U.S.A.

### Book Review

*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.*

#### Gmelins Handbuch der anorganischen Chemie.

**Selen A2.** Pp. 122, with 100 figs. Weinheim: Verlag Chemie. 1950. Price DM. 28.

#### Gmelins Handbuch der anorganischen Chemie.

**Gold A1.** Pp. 100. Weinheim: Verlag Chemie. 1950. Price DM. 22-50.

#### Gmelins Handbuch der anorganischen Chemie.

**Calcium A1.** Pp. 68. Weinheim: Verlag Chemie. 1950. Price DM. 15-50.

It is gratifying to take note of the fact that further volumes of Gmelin's Handbook continue to appear. The present volumes deal with a relatively restricted branch of inorganic chemistry. One point is at once noteworthy, namely, that the references to original literature are complete up to the end of 1949, no mean feat of publication even for a periodical.

The first volume is particularly concerned with selenium and especially its electrical properties. As is consistent with a reference book on inorganic chemistry, the main job is to give a connected outline of the facts with all the relevant references to the literature. The theories of the phenomena are not critically discussed. In addition, con-

siderable descriptions are given of technical barrier-layer photoelectric cells and of selenium rectifiers, together with the methods that have been developed for the preparation of selenium films in a suitable physical state.

The second volume on gold is of a rather different type. It starts with a considerable amount of early history of the metal based on a geographical foundation. The manifold uses of gold in early times are also fully described. Then follow more detailed accounts of its winning and purification as practised at the present time. The properties of gold and its practical uses take up the remainder of this volume.

The third volume on the compounds of calcium, especially chalk, is again largely historical. Special attention is paid to the use of chalk in industry and naturally much attention is devoted to the historically important chemical work on chalk which led to such revolutions in chemical theory. A few of the simpler chemical compounds, such as sulphates, halides and nitrates, are dealt with at the end of this volume.

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### Books Received

**Struktur und Eigenschaften der Krystalle.** By HELMUT G. F. WINKLER. Pp. viii+258, with 62 figs. and 79 tables. Berlin; Göttingen; Heidelberg: Springer. 1950. Price DM. 16-30.

**Structural Inorganic Chemistry.** By A. F. WELLS. Pp. xx+727, with 237 figs. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 2nd ed. 1950. Price 35s.

**Krystallometrisches Praktikum. Grundbegriffe und Untersuchungsmethoden.** By R. SCHROEDER. Pp. viii+199, with 156 figs. Berlin; Göttingen; Heidelberg: Springer. 1950. Price DM. 15-60.