

## BOOK REVIEWS

**An Introduction to Clay Colloid Chemistry**, Second Edition, by H. VAN OLPHEN, John Wiley & Sons, New York, London, Sydney, Toronto, 1977. 318 pp. 39 figures, graphs and tables. Cloth \$21.50.

This excellent introduction to clay colloid science is subtitled "For clay technologists, geologists and soil scientists." Certainly everyone who works with clays, by choice or by necessity, soon comes to appreciate that they are colloidal materials and that some acquaintance with colloid science is essential. The general character of this second edition remains the same, with the same pleasant style of writing and the same clear exposition of fundamental ideas. The new edition is slightly larger, perhaps 10% larger, than the first, with a few more pages and more words to the page. The references have increased considerably in number. For example, the chapter on clay-organic interactions

now has 157 as against 69 references in the previous edition. The printing is much improved, being blacker on a whiter paper (probably clay technologists contributed to this improvement). Techniques which are new since the first edition or have become more important, are mentioned briefly but for details the reader must go to the lists of references to find such information. After all, this is an introduction to clay colloid science and as such it is outstandingly good. A new generation of students and investigators will be well served by this updated version.

G. W. BRINDLEY

**Minerals in Soil Environments**, J. B. Dixon and S. B. Weed, co-editors, Soil Science Society of America, 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, Wisconsin 53711, 1977, \$25.00.

This beautiful, 948-page volume was prepared by many authors as the result of committee action of the SSSA to fill the need for a graduate level textbook. The 26 chapters, authored by recognized scientists, aptly cover the fundamentals of the diverse subjects so familiar to practicing soil scientists and clay mineralogists. Almost every chapter stands on its own; in fact, selected chapter materials were presented at symposia held by the SSSA. Unfortunately, due to an error by the printer, the copy obtained by this reviewer was incorrectly marked at the beginning of each chapter "Reprinted from . . ." which would lead

one to assume that these materials have appeared in print elsewhere which is not the case. Corrections are being made at the printing office. Illustrations, photographs, and tables are easily understood and clearly reproduced. Each chapter is followed by an excellent list of references and all authors are listed in an index, separate from the subject index, at the back of the book.

This compilation is an absolute must for anyone working with soils or clay mineralogy.

RICHARDS A. ROWLAND