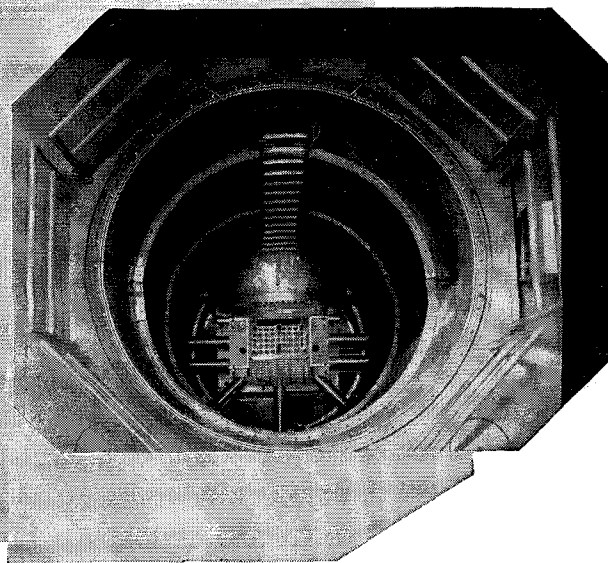


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BOOKS

GEOLOGY AND OURSELVES

by F. H. Edmunds

Philosophical Library, N.Y.

\$10

*Reviewed by Robert P. Sharp,
Chairman of the Division of
Geological Sciences*

AN AUTHOR should be judged largely upon what he sets out to do. The announced aim of this book is "to show how the science of geology enters into our everyday life." Mr. Edmunds enjoys a modest success in this endeavor.

Man of experience

The strongest fibers in the book spring from the author's experiences during more than 30 years of service on the staff of the Geological Survey of Great Britain in which he developed a varied and extended acquaintance with many practical applications of geology such as water supply, building materials, and civil and structural engineering. Much of the virtue of these chapters arises from the citation of actual examples and occurrences pertinent to the subject matter.

The first third of the book is devoted to an introduction on material, scope, and concepts of geology. It is necessarily so brief that the book might be better without it, especially since the remaining two-thirds is not heavily dependent upon this introductory material. Fortunately, the author has an informal, easy style which produces the effect of a person-to-person conversation, and some statements are as good as any to be found in the geological literature, as for example the paragraph comparing topographical and geological maps (p. 80). However, the treatment of subjects is spotty and uneven. This book is clearly something Mr. Edmunds has had in mind for a long time, and as a consequence some of the material and some of the illustrations are not of the most recent vintage.

For non-professionals

The professional, either geologist or engineer, will probably not find this volume a must for his book shelf, but the person unversed in earth science will find parts of the last eight chapters both good and easy reading.

ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE