well be followed by other ostracod workers also. All the taxa are profusely illustrated, the lateral views in photographs and the dorsal and ventral views in line diagrams. An alphabetical index of the various taxa described brings up the rearof this useful monograph which should find a place in the libraries of all workers. on Eocene ostracods. Apparently unpriced, the publication should be available on request either from the Akademiai Kiado, Budapest or the author.

Department of Geology Panjab University, Chandigarh

S. B. BHATIA.

CHEMICAL STUDIES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL BONES FROM INDIA. By Joshi, R. V. and Kshirsagar, A. K., Deccan College, Post-graduate and Research Institute, Poona, 1986, pp. 85, pls. 4, Rs. 125.

This is a book derived from a thesis entitled Quaternary Animal Fossils from India, submitted to the University of Poona for a Ph.D. degree by the second author. It makes a contribution of analysis of bone samples obtained from 39 archaeological sites spread over many parts of India. In chronological sequence the samples range from the Lower Palaeolithic period to the Megalithic period, approximately from 250,000 years to 2500 years ago. It includes useful references to the analysis of soil and groundwater samples from different parts of the country. The study demonstrates the well-known fact that the phosphate and fluorine content of ancient bone samples excavated from archaeological sites in India show a progressive increase in time, while their nitrogen content progressively decreases. The most useful contribution of the book is the site-wise analytical data of bone samples. This data will be useful to future scholars for making a comparative study of their analytical data on bone samples recovered from sites close to the ones discussed in the book.

Most Ph.D. theses quickly published as books suffer from a number of drawbacks. This one is no exception. For example, on page 17, the authors say that the bone samples were treated in the laboratory before they were subjected to chemical test. It would have been useful if the authors had discussed the nature of accretions on buried bone samples and the methods used by them to dissolve them.. Bone samples excavated from most of the sites in India carry strongly adhering layers of calcium carbonate and calcium carbonate content of bone samples for all sites is estimated. But bone is a porous material When buried, it is likely to accumulate soil carbonates within its pores. One of their scanning electron micrographs (Plate 12) shows a calcite crystal within a pore in the bone sample. However, not much thought has been given to such extraneous components accumulating within the pores of bones and hardly any interpretation is given to the scanning electron micrographs included in the book. A little reflection on these aspects would have changed the scope and usefulness of the book.

Dept. of Archaeology and Mineral History M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara 390 002

K. T. M. HEGDE