

BOOK REVIEW

JOURNAL OF ATOMIC MINERAL SCIENCE - VOLUME 1, 1993,
Atomic Minerals Division, Department of Atomic Energy, Hyderabad -
500 016.134p.

This is a new Journal started by the Atomic Minerals Division, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India. The first number contains 15 papers, broadly dealing with field relations (1), mineralogy (2), radioactivity (1), fluid inclusions (1), geochronology (1), statistical estimation (1), exploration (1), extraction (5) and others (2). Being published from Hyderabad and a first issue at that, it is only natural that a majority of the papers (>8) have emanated from this place. All the papers are by the scientists of the Atomic Minerals Division only. It is hoped that in the forthcoming issues there will be papers from other organisations as well.

The get up of the journal is good and the illustrations are neat and clear. The Editorial Board should see to it that it does not just become a "House Journal" with attendant pitfalls. The society welcomes this journal and looks forward to continued high quality publications in the years to come.

R.V.

THE STORY OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY (1994). By Dr. D.
Chandra, Dev Sahitya Kutir Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta-700 009.

The book under review is a part of the series on "Sources of Energy", possibly meant for the school children, is a welcome attempt to introduce the subject which normally does not form part of the curriculum in Indian Schools/Colleges. In our country, where geothermal energy scarcely gets a mention as an alternative energy source, the book provides an opportunity for readers, of all kinds and ages, to get acquainted with it.

The introductory part of the book gives an impression to the reader that geothermal systems are characteristically and genetically related to active volcanoes. As a matter of fact, areas of Quaternary Volcanism with magma chamber/cooling pluton at relatively shallow depths host most of the high temperature (300°C or more) geothermal systems of the world. In New Zealand, for example, there are active volcanoes but geothermal areas, in general, lie away from them.

The book is well illustrated. Some of the figures, like figs. 19, 20, 26, 39 etc. were not necessary. Figures 37, 40, 41, 45, 46 and 47 could have been on much reduced scale, particularly because they are not absolutely essential. The space thus saved could have been utilised in giving more important figures like 10 and 14 on much larger scale, besides the inclusion of a few more figures outlining the model of a typical geothermal system.

So far as the geothermal energy in India is concerned the text and figures come directly from the Geothermal Atlas of India (GSI Special Publication No. 19) without proper acknowledgement. A section on possible role of geothermal energy to meet our future energy requirements would have been useful to the readers. A list of the selected references also could have been added for the benefit of those who would like to pursue the subject further. Travertine, a common hot spring deposit, is a calcium carbonate and not a form of silica as mentioned on pages 12 and 25, and is possibly a solitary mistake of data in the book. On the whole, the book is a welcome addition to school libraries and would attract the young readers to the shelves of the book stores because of its good get-up.

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