

BOOK REVIEW

Walter Kertz, *Einführung in die Geophysik: I. Erdkörper*. B.I. Hochschultaschenbücher, 275/275a, Bibliographisches Institut, A.G., Mannheim, 1970; 232 pages; price 7.90 D.M.

The present little volume of 232 pages lives fully up to the expectations set by many preceding members of the same series in presenting in a clear and concise manner a survey of our present knowledge of most part of modern geophysics addressed to University undergraduates.

Following an introductory outline of the basic features of the physical structure of our planet (including a very readable account of radioactive methods for determination of the ages of solid rocks), the reader is given a brief but adequate account of elastic properties of the terrestrial mantle as well as of the magnetic properties of its core; while subsequent chapters describe the thermodynamical processes in the interior of our planet. A chapter describing some of the instrumental techniques of applied geophysics concludes the volume.

Astronomical aspects of the Earth as a celestial body enter this book in the sections concerned with the shape of the Earth and its distortion by the tides. Although the Moon as such is nowhere in the focus of the actual narrative, the entire subject of geophysics is now allied by so many ties with the studies of our satellite that an acquaintance with the contents of this little volume, and the techniques explained in it, should be of value also to all students of the internal structure of our satellite.

ZDENĚK KOPAL