

the nuggets in laterite is stated to be as much as 99.93% Au. Incidentally these appear to be the purest form of naturally occurring gold reported from any other part of the world. It is obvious that more attention has to be paid to the exploration of such pure gold occurrences in the laterites of Wynad.

The last section in the volume is devoted to environmental aspects specially mercury pollution prevalent in Wynad.

The two Memoirs of the Gondwana Research Group are heavily loaded with contributions of the two authors who are also the Editors. This is not a good example for such edited volumes. But for this excusable slip, the volumes are good contributions to our knowledge of the high-grade rocks of South India containing a wealth of new information. We have nothing but admiration for the excellent get up of the publication and the quality of its illustrations. We look forward to further contributions from this research group.

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HANDBOOK ON MINERAL DRESSING (1995), by H.G. Vijayendra, Vikas Publishing House, 576, Masjid Road, New Delhi - 110 614, 260p. Rs.85/-

While complimenting Sri Vijayendra on a maiden attempt to produce an indigenous Handbook on Mineral Dressing, the book has a number of shortcomings which would be met in any future edition.

Although designated as a 'Handbook', the publication is largely theoretical and could be more appropriately titled 'An Introduction to Mineral Dressing'. Its utility from the practical aspect of ore dressing is limited although as a reference book for students and others in search of appropriate formulae, it is adequate.

The coverage of certain areas is incomplete. For example the section on comminution omits any reference to rod mills, vertical mills and semi-autogenous mills. It is stated (p.65) that 'mills of larger diameter are not possible in view of breakability of pebbles', whereas autogenous and semiautogenous mills of large diameter but short length have been developed which overcome this problem by removing the necessity for pebbles as grinding media.

There is no mention in the same section of the effect on grinding efficiency of the type of liners used in ball and other mills. The improvement in cascading effect by the use of wave form liners or lifter bars is ignored and this aspect of grinding dismissed (p.55) with the statement 'less rougher the mill lining the less is the slip'. This is hardly a serious approach to one of the major aspects of grinding.

In the section on Gravity Concentration dealing with tables of various types, recent developments in drum separators, which are basically extended tables, such as the Bartley-Moseley drums and Johanson barrels, are not mentioned.

Spiral classifiers such as the Humphreys are only mentioned in the section on coal dressing, as separators, although this type of classifier finds wide use on other minerals.

The Knelson and other types of centrifugal concentrators, now widely used, particularly in the cleaning of concentrates, find no mention.

A number of typographical errors exist, e.g. p.137, para 4, line 3, 'tackled' should read 'tacked'. On p.147, para 2, line 5, 'riffler is' should read 'riffles are'. On p.148, problem 2, identification of delta sign is missing etc.

Apart from the simple basic diagrams the illustrations are of poor quality, apparently being reproductions of the author's note-book sketches.

Despite the above failings the book provides a basic introduction to a fairly wide spectrum of mineral dressing.

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