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model, the experimental determination and application of configuration coordinate curves, optical transitions in a crystalline photoconductor, electron traps, their thermal and optical activation, extinction phenomena, energy transfer, sensibilization, and many other subjects. The author skillfully blends experimental and theoretical information into a unified whole. Both are condensed to an absolute minimum. If I had to voice any criticism, it is that I would have welcomed a few more references. Many names are given in the text without any indication where to find the complete information, and the bibliography is essentially limited to review papers or books on the subject. However, the book can be very much recommended to those interested in crystalline luminescence.

X-Ray Spectrochemical Analysis. Vol. 11 of Chemical Analysis. By L. S. Birks. 137 pp. Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York, 1959. \$5.75. *Reviewed by I. Fankuchen, Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.*

DR. Birks has written a small, unpretentious book which will be frequently referred to by everyone doing spectrochemical analysis. It is indeed true that x-ray spectra have been used to identify atoms for almost forty years. But it is only in the last ten years or so that suitable apparatus has been commercially available so that routine chemical analysis in an average analytical laboratory could be so attempted. Hundreds of papers on the subject have appeared in the last ten years and these are for the most part in quite readily available journals. However, Dr. Birks has done a very useful thing; he has digested these papers and resubmitted their essence in a most readable and accurate form. The writing is economical, perhaps too much so; there is no stuffing in the book. As a result, some things suffer. Thus, the author index is remarkably incomplete. Only names specifically mentioned in the text are listed. Although each chapter concludes with a list of references to which Birks repeatedly refers in the text, these references are not given in the author index. This makes hunting up someone's work not too easy. The price per page seems somewhat high. This first modern book on an increasingly important subject is to be recommended.

Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society, Vol. 5, 1959. 280 pp. The Royal Society, London, 1960. 30s. *Reviewed by R. Bruce Lindsay, Brown University.*

THE Royal Society continues to confer a boon on all who are interested in the history of contemporary science by publishing the fifth volume of a series, begun in 1955, of biographical memoirs of recently deceased fellows. It contains brief biographies of nineteen fellows, most of whom died in 1958 or 1959 and whose scientific activities were for the most part associated with the first half of the twentieth century. Of these men who achieved distinction in their chosen