

BOOK REVIEW

TELFORD, GELDART, SHERIFF & KEYS - *Applied Geophysics*
Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1976. 860 pp. £26.00.

The authors have produced a commendably full and on the whole well balanced book dealing with all the major and most of the minor variations of techniques currently used in geophysical prospecting. Gravity, magnetic, seismic, electrical, electro-magnetic, radioactive and well logging methods all receive attention, with perhaps naturally the most extensive individual treatment going to the seismic methods which have achieved such prominence due to their wide use in oil exploration which in turn represents about 90% of all exploration effort.

The book has reduced to one volume the up-to-date information that one has previously had to gather from a whole range of books and articles.

My one real criticism of the book lies in the confusion of units used. No reference to the S.I. system is made and though metres are sometimes used, in the main, traditional units predominate. However, to find on one page metres (S.I.) milligalls (c.g.s.) and feet (Imperial) used in relation to one subject leaves plenty of room for 'conversion errors' further compounded by a 'mass M weighing (Force?) 5 milligrams'. It may be said in its defence that however inconsistent the units are they are in fact what are very often used in practice.

Detailed information on the processing of field data, its reduction and eventual interpretation is given together with many useful case studies and examples for the student to work through. Having set the scene in the introduction with regard to the relative importance in cash terms of mineral (oil and metal) exploration to the geophysics industry the text and examples then tend to concentrate heavily on these rather than site investigation, though the latter receives some attention. There are extensive references and I was particularly impressed with the number (481), quality and pertinence of the illustrations used throughout the text.

Clearly this book is going to prove a most useful reference text.

James R. Brown.