

This first part comprises 71 loose plates in a case; a further 91 plates, which will go in the same case, and a volume of text are due out later this year. When it is complete this will be a most notable, and beautiful, addition to the literature of descriptive mineralogy.

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Graphic prints and drawings of M. C. Escher: set of 35 35 mm colour slides. Hilversum: Polygon. Price Dfl. 20, \$ 5.50, £ 2.7s.

Many crystallographers will be familiar with the fascinating work of the Dutch artist M. C. Escher. One of Escher's pre-occupations is the filling of two-dimensional space with objects that can be recognized as, or associated with, living creatures and many of his drawings are truly periodic. It is not surprising that X-ray crystallographers are interested in Escher's work when they are concerned with the ways in which nature solves the same problem of packing identical objects in periodic patterns. Escher's drawings are sufficiently complicated to illustrate most of the rules of plane

group symmetry without presenting too many difficulties for the beginner. They are certainly superior to patterns of little circles, thinly disguised as atoms or molecules, which appear on the blackboards of crystallography classes and the reviewer has found Escher's drawing an admirable aid to the teaching of symmetry.

Out of the 35 slides in the set under review, 11 are of periodic patterns nearly all of which exhibit colour symmetry. The remainder form a good cross-section of Escher's work and include reproductions of such famous lithographs as 'Belvedere' and 'Waterfall' which depict impossible buildings and play tricks on our concept of the three-dimensional world. Also present are pictures which show a transition from a flat two-dimensional to a spatial three-dimensional world and others that use perspective in the cunning fashion so typical of Escher.

It is easy to think of works that one would like to see included in this set of slides, but very difficult to decide which of the reproductions already present they should replace. The quality of reproduction is satisfactory and if one can judge from the success of an evening showing the slides at a Department of Physics get-together at York, they are well worth buying.

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