this the reader will have to consult other works (such as Stein-Weiss **[S-W]**, Stein **[S]**, and the more recent Garcia-Cuerva–Rubio de Francia **[G-R]**).

This is a book for mature readers. The author does not hesitate to use ideas and results from diverse branches of mathematics—special functions, functional analysis, partial differential equations, differential geometry. But for the reader with a strong background, or a willingness to accept a non-self-contained presentation, this book offers many pleasures. In addition to the concrete computational results already mentioned, the book contains concise and insightful presentations of a number of important abstract topics, including induced representations, representations of compact groups, conformal transformations, Clifford algebras and spinors. Taylor has an original point of view, and is able to bring new insights to familiar topics.

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Near-rings and their links with groups, by J. D. P. Meldrum, Pitman Publishing, Boston, London, Melbourne, 275 pp., $44.95. ISBN 0-470-20648-9.

Many mathematicians do not highly appreciate theories which have prefixes like near-, semi-, hemi-, para-, quasi-, and so on. This certainly should not apply in the case of near-rings. As the name suggests, a *near-ring* is a "generalized ring"; more precisely, the commutativity of addition is not required and just one of the distributive laws is postulated.

Near-rings arise very naturally in the study of mappings on groups. If $(G, +)$ is a group (not necessarily abelian) then the set $M(G)$ of all mappings from G to G is a near-ring with respect to pointwise addition and composition of mappings. If G is abelian and if one only takes "linear" maps