of the z distribution as to independence of the estimates of the variance is satisfied.

But from a less rigorous point of view, there are many features in the book which are commendable. Some of these have already been indicated in our description of the contents; but special mention should be made of the fact that every significant piece of theory is illustrated with an illuminating numerical example, and there is a generous number of good exercises at the end of each chapter.

It is the reviewer's personal opinion that the book would be successful in its first aim (as a classroom text for a first course in statistics) only if it were used to supplement a set of lectures by a skillful teacher. But for the more advanced student of statistics who is not entirely familiar with the methods of Fisher and his followers, the book should prove to be a valuable reference work. Comparison is inevitable in this connection with Fisher's well known text, *Statistical Methods for Research Workers*,[1] for Rider covers somewhat the same theoretical ground and will appeal to much the same group of readers. Although there is something to be said for Fisher's omission of almost all mathematical notation when writing for these readers, it seems to the reviewer that wherever there is overlapping between the two books, Rider definitely excels in organization of material and clarity of presentation. This is not meant to imply that Rider should supplant Fisher in the statistical workers' library. Fisher's book contains a great many valuable suggestions, explanations, and warnings (and also dogmatic assertions) concerning experimental technique which are not to be found in Rider. But as a companion volume, and as a sort of translation of some of the more obscure passages in Fisher's book, Rider should immediately find an important place.

J. H. CURTISS

The Mathematical Theory of Huygens' Principle. By B. B. Baker and E. T. Copson. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1939. 7+155 pp.

This work is the first of a series of monographs planned by the authors on the mathematics of physics. Each monograph is to be complete in itself and deal with some special topic in the theory of the partial differential equations of mathematical physics not adequately treated in existing books.

The aims of the authors are admirably achieved in the first monograph which deals with the mathematical theory of Huygens' principle in the propagation of sound and light waves. The theme of the

[1] Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh and London.