

few decades. It had an impact on the trend of research and is still influencing it. In looking through the book now one realizes how little one would like to change the existing text, though, not unnaturally, one would like to see the book expanded by the inclusion of new material. Much of this material is already in the book in the form "Miscellaneous Theorems and Examples" at the ends of the chapters, where many results are stated without proofs, or merely with indications of proofs. Today, when the main results of the theory are comparatively familiar, due, to a great extent, to the book itself, a "promotion" of a part of the small type material to a more prominent place and an elaboration of this material would seem desirable. Also, the inclusion of results pertaining to the theory of linear operations would be useful, if only in connection with the work of M. Riesz and Thorin. We now realize their importance, and today, due to the simplifications of the proofs and the further development of the theory of linear operations, such results are much more within the reach of the beginner than they were twenty years ago.

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Theory of elasticity and plasticity. By H. M. Westergaard. (Harvard Monographs in Applied Science, no. 3.) New York, Wiley, 1952. 14+176 pp. \$5.00.

It was the intention of the author to write a textbook on elasticity and plasticity, containing, in particular, a unified account of his own researches and of the aspects of the subject to which they pertain. The introduction indicates that the present work corresponds to the first half of the project, and there are passages which probably would have been revised if even this part had not been completed under the pressure of time and illness. The author died in 1950.

The work as it stands refers almost exclusively to elasticity and may be divided roughly into three parts: scope and history, fundamental concepts, inverse and semi-inverse solutions obtained by stress functions and strain functions.

The author's historical remarks, both in his second chapter and in the numerous careful annotations throughout the rest of the work, are drawn almost entirely from his own experience in the literature. They constitute a valuable supplement to what is generally known, particularly since they refer to work whose date, or at least whose main interest, is subsequent to the definitive form of Love's treatise (1906). Many of the authors whose work is discussed are still active (Prandtl, v. Kármán, v. Mises, Mindlin, Nadai, and younger writers).