nection with non-integral n," thus (since Y_n is not introduced) leaving one helpless in problems about annuli. Again, the authors' treatment of the calculus of variations is in the metaphysical style of the seventeenth century, with "variations" that are sometimes zero and sometimes not. This is inexcusable if the idea is to prove anything, but perfectly all right if the idea is simply to furnish a mnemonic for Euler's equation.

The authors say in their preface, "The degree of rigor to which we have aspired is that customary in careful scientific demonstrations, not the lofty heights accessible to the pure mathematician." That is, this is a book about pidgin mathematics; as such, it will not appeal to any standard mathematician who may be looking for a text in applications of mathematics. It may, indeed, give him qualms about the validity of "careful scientific demonstrations." I need say little more, since practitioners of pidgin mathematics are unlikely to read this *Bulletin*. The first edition (reviewed in Bull. Amer. Math. Soc. vol. 57 (1945) pp. 508–509) was enormously successful. The second edition differs from the first chiefly by the addition of a section on Fourier and Laplace transforms. Parts of the book are primarily physical (thermodynamics, mechanics of molecules, quantum mechanics, statistical mechanics); some are handbook-style collections of facts (vectors, tensors, coordinate systems, matrices, numerical methods, and the parts of group theory that are too advanced for elementary texts and too special for advanced ones); some consider mathematical tools (differential equations, special functions, calculus of variations, integral equations). The physical parts seem lucidly written and can even be read by mathematicians who want to acquire a smattering of physics to impress their friends. The rest seems adequate within the setting for which it was designed, although even so some physicists have not found it altogether satisfactory as a text; perhaps this corresponds to the fact that (for example) a text written in Melanesian Pidgin would cause difficulties for a reader of Australian Pidgin.

<div align="right">R. P. Boas, Jr.</div>

Computability and unsolvability. By Martin Davis. New York, McGraw-Hill, 1958. 25+210 pp. $7.50.

This book gives an expository account of the theory of recursive functions and some of its applications to logic and mathematics. It is well written and can be recommended to anyone interested in this field. No specific knowledge of other parts of mathematics is presup-