ing the temptation of stifling the reader under an undue burden of authoritarianism and slickness.

The authors in their preface to this volume intimate that this is not intended as an exhaustive treatment of the subject and this is indeed the case. Under these circumstances there is bound to be some controversy concerning the particular selection of topics made. Since the authors were clearly motivated in their choice of topics by geometric and not purely algebraic considerations, it might have been better if they had not included some of the purely algebraic sections (such as the section on chains of syzygies which is extremely sketchy and never used in an intrinsic way except in Appendix 7) and had used the space instead for giving geometric motivation and interpretation for more of the notions now presented in a purely formal setting, such as regular local rings, multiplicity theory, etc. Also some of the geometric interpretations given are so sketchy as to be almost meaningless, except to those already familiar with the subject from a geometric point of view. Since the authors are so admirably equipped to initiate the untutored into the connections between commutative algebra and geometry, it is a pity that they did not do more along these lines in this volume.

From the point of view of abstract algebra, or at least from the point of view of homological algebra, there is a glaring omission in this book. Modules are either not mentioned at all or just as a technical device in some few instances. The authors readily acknowledge this lack in their preface and I suppose their decision to play down this aspect of the subject can be defended on two grounds: (a) There are only a limited number of things you can have in a book; (b) module theory is not as central as ideal theory to their view of algebraic geometry. However, in the light of recent developments in both algebraic geometry and abstract algebra, I think a case can be made for having a book available which would approach commutative algebra from both the ideal theoretic and module theoretic points of view. While this treatise by Zariski and Samuel may not be as universal as one would like, it none the less does meet the need for an up-to-date book on ideal theory admirably and therefore deserves a wide audience.

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Continuous transformations in analysis. By T. Radó and P. V. Reichelderfer. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1955. 7+442 pp. DM 59.60.

Any undergraduate student of calculus is aware of the fact that, if called upon to integrate a function of x, he may replace x by a