small and the symbols insufficiently varied. The first edition is much easier to read; but the present one is even more worth reading. It gives a very good account of its subject, and its title is well deserved.

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Gravitational curvature, an introduction to Einstein's theory, by Theodore Frankel, W. H. Freeman and Co., San Francisco, California, 1979, xviii + 172 pp., $8.95. ISBN 0-7167-1062-5

General relativity, an introduction to the theory of the gravitational field, by Hans Stephani, (edited by John Stewart; translated from German by Martin Pollock and John Stewart) Cambridge Univ. Press, New York, New York, 1982, xvi + 298 pp., $49.50. ISBN 0-521-24008-5

General relativity, by Robert M. Wald, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois, 1984, xiii + 491 pp., $50.00 HB; $30.00 PB. ISBN 0-266-87033-2

One hundred years ago there appeared in New York a book by William K. Clifford [7] containing the following passages:

(i) Our space is perhaps really possessed of a curvature varying from point to point, which we fail to appreciate because we are acquainted with only a small portion of space...

(ii) Our space may be really same (of equal curvature), but its degree of curvature may change as a whole with the time...

(iii) We may conceive our space to have everywhere a nearly uniform curvature, but that slight variations of the curvature may occur from point to point, and themselves vary with the time... We might even go so far as to assign to this variation of curvature of space 'what really happens in that phenomenon which we term the motion of matter'.

It is impressive and moving to read this intuitive description of the fundamental ideas of the theory of general relativity written over thirty years before Albert Einstein gave the theory its final form. The subtle relations between