When $k = \mathbf{Q}$ early workers appear to have believed that the rank (number of generators of infinite order) of the Mordell-Weil group is bounded; now the opposite is conjectured, but the truth is not known. The possible structures of the torsion part of the Mordell-Weil group have, however, been determined by Mazur using tools from the theory of modular forms.

Associated with an elliptic curve over a global field such as $\mathbf{Q}$ there is associated an L-function, many of whose properties remain conjectural. Guided first by a heuristic intuition and then by massive numerical computations, Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer were led to some very precise conjectures relating the behavior of the L-function to such things as the Mordell-Weil and Tate-Shafarevich groups. These conjectures have stood the test of much subsequent investigation, but it is only recently that some fragments of them have been proved.

The above partial account indicates the central position of the theory of elliptic curves and the wide variety of disciplines on which it draws. The author justifiably remarks "Considering the vast amount of research currently being done in this area, the paucity of introductory texts is somewhat surprising." In the reviewer's opinion his book fills the gap admirably. An old hand is hardly the best judge of a book of this nature, but the reports of graduate students are equally favorable.

J. W. S. CASSELS

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Geometry of CR-submanifolds, by Aurel Bejancu. Mathematics and Its Applications, D. Reidel Publishing Company, Dordrecht, Boston, Lancaster, and Tokyo, xii + 169 pp., $49.50. ISBN 90-277-2194-7.

The study of complex submanifolds of a Kaehlerian manifold, in particular, of a complex projective space, is one of the most important fields in differential geometry. It began as a separate area of study in the last century with the investigation of algebraic curves and algebraic surfaces in classical algebraic geometry. Included among the principal investigators are Riemann, Picard, Enriques, Castelnuovo, Severi, and C. Segre. It was J. A. Schouten, D. van Dantzig and E. Kähler [**5**, **8**, **9**] who first tried to study complex manifolds from the viewpoint of Riemannian geometry in the early 1930s. In their studies, a Hermitian space with the so-called symmetric unitary connection was introduced. A Hermitian space with such a connection is now known as a Kaehlerian manifold.

It was A. Weil [**10**] who in 1947 pointed out that there exists in a complex manifold a tensor field J of type $(1,1)$ whose square is equal to minus the identity transformation of the tangent bundle, that is, $J^2 = -I$. In the same year, C. Ehresmann introduced the notion of an almost complex manifold as