by the assumption that an algebraic system of partial differential equations which, corresponding to each unknown, contains at most one equation with a derivative of that unknown for leader (a so-called *normal* system) has a unique solution for each set of initial determinations.

Chapters V and VI, on which later chapters are modeled, are devoted to the study of solutions of systems of polynomial equations and inequations in variables $y_1, \cdots, y_n$. The treatment is simplified to a surprising extent by the admission of the inequation on equal footing with the equation, and it leads to a decomposition of every system into a finite number of canonical systems without common roots. A canonical system embraces a sequence of at most n polynomials, each of which contains variables y_k not occurring effectively in the preceding ones, and its solvability is almost trivial. But it should be pointed out that the author does not try out his treatment on more elaborate questions concerning multiplicity of roots and ideals of polynomials. In Chapters VII and VIII the author presents his decomposition of algebraic systems of partial differential equations into *passive standard* systems. These are systems which, in addition to being canonical (as in Chapter VI), satisfy a condition of "integrability"; and their solution can in turn be made to depend on the successive solution of a finite number of normal systems. The treatment of normal systems in the author's version of Riquier's existence theorem is completed in Chapter X. But the book does not include topics of the type of Ritt's extension of Hilbert's "Nullstellensatz" to differential systems.

In Chapter IX the investigations of the previous chapters are applied to a study, with generalizations of some results to non-linear forms, of Cartan's existence theorems for pfaffian systems. For instance, the integral varieties of a pfaffian system satisfy a related system of partial differential equations, and the solutions of its principal canonical factors are all those *non-singular* integral varieties whose dimension is equal to the genus of the pfaffian system. Finally, Chapter XI gives several examples to illustrate reduction of pfaffian forms, Riquier's dissection of a Taylor series corresponding to a system of monomials, and reduction of polynomial and differential systems.

SALOMON BOCHNER

Integralgleichungen. By G. Hamel. Berlin, Springer, 1937. 8+166 pp.

This book has grown out of a series of lectures delivered in the spring of 1937 at the Extension Institute of the Technische Hochschule in Berlin. The lectures are addressed to men in practical work, with the general purpose of presenting topics not well known to them and of indicating applications of the theory discussed. The success of the lectures on integral equations suggested the desirability of publishing them for the benefit particularly of engineers and physicists.

The book contains no new results of interest to the mathematician and could be used as a textbook only when supplemented by references to original sources and other standard works. The author has, however, achieved considerable success in presenting the fundamental concepts and lines of argument against a background of ideas based upon definite physical problems.

The first part of the book (91 pages) contains the material as presented in the lectures. The different standard types of integral equations are introduced by the familiar problems associated with a vibrating string, and their connection with and solution by differential equations are explained. Emphasis is then confined to linear equations with symmetric kernel. Solution by Neumann's method is given and the integral equations arising from potential theory are introduced, after which the