

BOOK REVIEWS

Guide to the literature of mathematics and physics including related works on engineering science. By N. G. Parke. New York, McGraw-Hill, 1947. 15+205 pp. \$5.00.

This book has been written in order to enable mathematicians, physicists, and engineers to have entry into the important literature of fields which are related to their own specialty. Two-thirds of the volume are devoted to a listing under subject headings of the leading treatises and texts. Judging by the books in mathematics, one would conclude that the author is exceedingly well informed as to important titles. Probably, some of the works are somewhat too advanced for the outsider. For example—examples are always unfair—E. H. Moore's *General analysis* is more of a curiosity than a reference text for the electronics specialist. Some typical headings are: aeronautics, 27 titles; algebraic geometry, 10 titles; electric discharge through gases, 16 titles; relativity, 23 titles.

In part I of this book, the author discusses the principles of reading and study, self-directed education, and the search of the literature. The young student will find here sound advice, warmly written. The scientist who wishes to collect a library, a desire which this reviewer regards with strict neutrality, will obtain valuable guidance from this work.

E. R. LORCH

Eleven and fifteen-place tables of Bessel functions of the first kind, to all significant orders. By E. Cambi. New York, Dover Publications, 1948. 5+154 pp. \$3.95.

Bessel functions are in great favor, as usual, with the makers of mathematical tables. This is a handy set for $J_n(x)$, $0 \leq x \leq 10.5$, $\Delta x = .01$, $n = 0, 1, \dots, 29$, 11 decimals. A supplementary table gives $J_n(x)$, $0 \leq x \leq .5$, $\Delta X = .001$, $n = 0, 1, \dots, 11$, 15 decimals. A question may be raised as to whether the simultaneous publication of these tables and similar ones by the Annals of the Computation Laboratory of Harvard University represents a duplication of effort.

E. R. LORCH

Tables of spherical Bessel functions. Vol. II. Prepared by the Mathematical Tables Project, National Bureau of Standards. New York, Columbia University Press, 1947. 20+232 pp. \$7.50.

The functions tabulated here are $(\pi/2x)^{1/2}J_\nu(x)$ where ν is one-