

Mathematicians (by whom I mean people who produce, rather than consume, mathematics, whether pure or applied) may well be depressed by the realization of how ineffective even a well-developed theory can be in the face of practical requirements. On the other hand, a study of some of the forms which have been found useful might well suggest new lines of research. The level of the exposition is implicitly a disheartening commentary on the present level of mathematical education of computer personnel.

R. P. BOAS, JR.

BRIEF MENTION

Leitfaden der Nomographie. By W. Meyer zur Capellen. Berlin, Springer, 1953. 4+178 pp., 203 figs. 17.40 DM.

Nomographie. By M. W. Pentkowski. Trans. from the Russian by M. Peschel. Berlin, Akademie-Verlag, 1953. 16+268 pp., 140 figs. 15 DM.

These two books contain much useful information not elsewhere available and present it in stimulating manner. Both pay considerable attention, for example, to the question of errors. In the first, the discussion proceeds by numerous varied examples taken from engineering practice. The types are listed in an easily usable index. The sources form a bibliography of 68 titles. The theory is only lightly treated. With sharply contrasting method Pentkowski's book discusses few applications to specific equations from engineering. Most of the types considered are among those given in d'Ocagne's treatise. A mathematical classification of these types and their relations is not attempted. The object is rather to discuss how data should influence type, size and disposition if the nomogram is to have specified accuracy. This is done at great length and with a high degree of success.

J. M. THOMAS

An introduction to the theory of numbers. By G. H. Hardy and E. M. Wright. 3d ed. Oxford University Press, 1954. 16+420 pp. \$6.75.

The first edition was reviewed in this Bulletin vol. 45 (1939) p. 507. A number of changes have been made, among them the inclusion of an elementary proof of the prime number theorem.

Mathematical foundations of quantum mechanics. By J. von Neumann. Trans. by R. T. Beyer. Princeton University Press, 1955. 12+445 pp. \$6.00.