REVIEWS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF TABLES AND BOOKS

The numbers in brackets are assigned according to the indexing system printed in Volume 22, Number 101, January 1968, page 212.

13[1].—CONSTANCE REID, *Hilbert*, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1970, xii + 290 pp., 24 cm. Price $8.80.

No better review could serve for this eloquently written book than to quote Richard Courant's foreword to the book:

"David Hilbert was one of the truly great mathematicians of his time. His work and his inspiring scientific personality have profoundly influenced the development of the mathematical sciences up to the present time. His vision, his productive power and independent originality as a mathematical thinker, his versatility and breadth of interest made him a pioneer in many different mathematical fields. He was a unique personality, profoundly immersed in his work and totally dedicated to his science, a teacher and leader of the very highest order, inspiring and most generous, tireless and persistent in all of his efforts.

"To me, one of the few survivors of Hilbert's inner circle, it always has appeared most desirable that his biography should be published. Considering, however, the enormous scientific scope of Hilbert's work, it seemed to me humanly impossible that a single biographer could do justice to all the aspects of Hilbert as a productive scientist and to the impact of his radiant personality. Thus, when I learned of Mrs. Reid's plan for the present book I was at first skeptical whether somebody not thoroughly familiar with mathematics could possibly write an acceptable book. Yet, when I saw the manuscript my skepticism faded, and I became more and more enthusiastic about the author's achievement. I trust that the book will fascinate not only mathematicians but everybody who is interested in the mystery of the origin of great scientists in our society."

E. I.

14[2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11].—KAREL REKTORYS, Editor, *Survey of Applicable Mathematics*, translated from Czech by R. Vyborny, MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1969, 1369 pp., 25 cm. Price $16.95.

As mathematical activities proliferate, and mathematical sciences increasingly interact with applied sciences, it is important that the line of communication between mathematicians and all those who wish to use mathematics be kept open. The volume under review is a notable contribution to this effort. It presents to the applied scientist, in a language which he can easily understand, a variety of mathematical subjects likely to be relevant to his work. The material is consistently presented in a format of definitions and theorems. Instead of proofs, there are explanatory remarks and illustrative examples. The reader, therefore, can quickly get a survey of any particular subject and learn what concepts are in use and what results are available. For a