REVIEWS

A Short Dictionary of Mathematics, by C.H. McDowell. Philosophical Library, New York, 1957. vi + 64 pp. $2.75.

Due to its compact presentation, this pocket size dictionary contains more information than its 64 pages would lead one to expect. A short history of mathematics is followed by a section dealing with arithmetical and algebraical terms. The definitions are clear and concise, and are accompanied by examples wherever appropriate. Unfortunately, two errors have crept in here. (1) On pp.3 and 19 the Associative Law for Multiplication is correctly defined, but two of the examples given are of the Commutative Law. (2) On pp. 11 and 20 the Distributive Law is confused with the Commutative Law for addition and subtraction.

The second section deals with geometry and trigonometry. All definitions are accompanied by clearly-labelled diagrams.

Tables of mathematical symbols, Greek letters, and weights and measures complete the book.

The level is that of the advanced mathematics High School course, and a little beyond. It should therefore be handy for the layman interested in mathematics, as well as for the High School student. The price, for its size, seems a little too high; $2.00 would be nearer the mark.

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Elements of Mathematical Statistics by D. Ransom Whitney. Dryden Press Publishers, New York, 1958. (The Macmillan Company of Canada Limited). 136 pp. Canadian list price $2.50.

This text is an excellent basis for a quarter or semester first course for the advanced undergraduate, both as to the material covered and the manner of its presentation. The statistical concepts are clear, and the author has not hesitated to introduce deep underlying mathematical ideas. In little more than a hundred pages he discusses statistical inference and standard probability distributions. There is an adequate supply of problems at the end of each chapter. His concise presentation is unusual and pleasing.

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