

Book Reviews

A. LANDE, *Quantum mechanics in a New Key*, Exposition, 1973, 131 pp. Unusual mélange of clarity and controversy by one of the dissident quantum-mechanical fundamentalists.

I. E. SEGAL, *Mathematical Cosmology and Extragalactic Astronomy*, Academic Press, 1976, 204 pp. One of the masters of conceptual mathematical analysis develops a new theory of the universe, whose originality is bound to be felt as a threat in a field where columns of unanalyzed data are often preferred to the slightest departure from convention.

B. VAN DER WAERDEN, *Einführung in die algebraische Geometrie*, Springer, 1973, 280 pp. This book gives us van der Waerden in top form, probably better than his "Algebra." Mathematicians, like Proust and everyone else, are at their best when writing about their first love. This book should be required reading for the small fry of algebraic geometry, who after four years at it are still unable to visualize a curve.

R. CUPPENS, *Decomposition of Multivariate Probability*, Academic Press, 1975, 244 pp. The first survey of the field in a long time, up-to-date and thorough, even in regard to Russian contributions. The exposition is somewhat compact, but in exchange the reader gets a lot more for his money. It is gratifying to see that de Finetti's pioneering work is finally getting its due.

W. F. STOUT, *Almost Sure Convergence*, Academic Press, 1974, 381 pp. An up-to-date survey of almost-sure convergence in probability—some notable applications to analysis are omitted—perhaps the first ever. The presentation is easily accessible, smooth, and well motivated. A useful complement to the standard probability course.

J. L. MACKIE, *Truth, Probability and Paradox*, Oxford, 1973, 305 pp. One more book that treats the problems of two generations ago. The chapter on probability seems written by someone living on the moon: no account of the current revival of von Mises's "Collective in the Hands of the Randomists"; only a perfunctory discussion—inferior to Jeffrey's—of the Bayesian point of view, and total silence on the role of probability in quantum mechanics. In meager compensation, we find a list of paradoxes considered by philosophers in recent years, which only seems to underline the paucity of intellect of a certain school of philosophy of our day. But what can we expect of a writer who prefaces his book with the bigoted view that "all philosophy, to be any good, must be analytic?"

V. V. PETROV, *Sums of Independent Random Variables*, Springer, 1975, 346 pp. Probability is coming of age, as this book witnesses. The extreme sophistication we have reached in the central limit theorems, global, local, tail estimates, are here expounded with the thoroughness we have come to expect of a member of the long-standing Russian school.