

be done to present the material in a way that is clear and well organized.

The Editors of the series and Princeton University Press must share the blame for the poor form and style of the book. Many of the lines in the text are badly set up, some symbols are all too obviously handwritten, and the formulas are generally difficult to read.

The organization of the book leaves much to be desired, and, in the opinion of the reviewer, the fault lies in the method of presenting a proof. The author seldom takes the trouble to let the reader know what he is doing and why. This is clearly illustrated in the first chapter where a proof is given of the transcendency of  $e^a$ . The reader may find the proofs involved, but not until the end of the chapter, if he gets that far, does he discover that the author has a perfectly good reason for presenting the proofs in the way he does.

Pólya, writing in the *American Mathematical Monthly*, December 1949, page 684, describes the situation exactly in the following words. "A mathematical lecture should be, first of all, correct and unambiguous. Still, we know from painful experience that a perfectly unambiguous and correct exposition can be far from satisfactory and may appear uninspiring, tiresome or disappointing, even if the subject-matter presented is interesting in itself."

R. D. JAMES

*Fourier transforms*. By S. Bochner and K. Chandrasekharan. (*Annals of Mathematics Studies*, no. 19.) Princeton University Press, 1949. 10+219 pp. \$3.50.

This is a very readable introduction to the craft of the authors, and as such fills a very real need. The subject matter serves to a large extent as a springboard for the presentation of interesting techniques, viewpoints, and concepts, and is treated with great deftness and remarkable continuity. There is a good deal of explanatory and motivating material, and altogether the book is a very appropriate one for study by an apprentice to the guild of semi-classical analysts.

The book is apparently not intended for reference use, nor is its subject matter and development the sort that are best adapted to the needs of a mathematician with a merely general interest in the subject, or to the needs of a theoretical physicist. The topics treated are interesting but the basis of their selection seems to have been esthetic and subjective, rather than a function of their relative significance within the general framework of mathematics. Among the important topics not treated are Fourier transforms in the complex domain, Fourier-Stieltjes transforms, and generalized harmonic analysis; from