for these classes of functions. We hope that future volumes might consider these matters.

Integral representations will prove a valuable reference for experts. By its very technical nature, it contains no results with the compelling elegance of, say, the Riemann mapping theorem. But the techniques are far more important than the specific results and, by that measure, the book is a success.

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The algebra of random variables, by M. D. Springer, Wiley, New York, 1979, xxii + 470 pp., $26.95.

It is both surprising and regrettable that it took over 30 years after the appearance of the pioneering paper by B. Epstein in (1948), *Some applications of the Mellin transform in statistics*, to produce the first text on the *Algebra of random variables* which is based on an elaboration and extension of Epstein's ideas. It is also equally unfortunate and puzzling that Epstein's paper appeared so late in this century, over ten years after Cramér's classical *Random variables and probability distributions*. The book under review is indeed very close in its mathematical content to the treatises on the subject matter of the special functions which originated in the beginning of this century. In fact, the mathematics in this book could fit very well into Whittaker and Watson's *Modern analysis* (1915).

This lag of about half a century is–in my opinion–due to two basic reasons: the awkward and uncertain position of probability theory (and thus indirectly what is known today as "statistical distribution theory") within the framework of all the mathematical disciplines which lasted at least until the publication of Kolmogorov's axiomatization in 1933 and to some extent to a certain contempt exercised by the editors of some mathematical and statisti-