

novelties such as the construction of a T with an arbitrarily given curve as an F -curve of the first kind.

In the chapter on the resolution of singularities of surfaces the author does not give complete proofs but refers on essential points to the sources. There is indeed difference of opinion as to whether such resolution has actually been accomplished. Thus the present exposition of progress to date is opportune.

References to the bibliography are made in the text by number. This convenient method would have been much improved if the authors cited were also given.

A forthcoming report on topics in algebraic geometry contains chapters on Cremona transformations which will cover as well the matters not discussed by Miss Hudson. Fortunately the prior appearance of this volume has enabled the authors concerned both to make their general list of references more complete, and to refer for a broader account to the book itself.

A. B. COBLE

JORDAN ON STATISTICS

Statistique Mathématique. By Charles Jordan. Paris, Gauthier-Villars, 1927. xvii+344 pp.

This book is a scholarly treatment of the subject of mathematical statistics. It is in many respects the book which mathematicians have been waiting for. It performs for statistics much the same service as a standard *Cours d'Analyse* performs for analysis, and with the same typical French clearness; it would seem to be also of about the same degree of difficulty. Moreover, in point of difficulty, it is, considering the variety of subjects treated, of remarkably uniform grade throughout. The development is carefully planned in advance, and is carried out logically, and with uniform notation and nomenclature, producing maximum clearness of exposition in minimum space. There are no topics of dominant importance which the author has not considered, although there are some minor matters—this is true of almost every book—which he has omitted and the reviewer would like to have had included. Apparently the author has also drawn on all the important sources, but though many times it is possible to recognize in his exposition the essential arguments of others, never are these arguments copied bodily; they always bear the impress of his own method of thinking. The only possible criticism in this connection is that, in acknowledging his indebtedness to others, Jordan rather frequently mentions names only, without giving references to the publications—a flaw which could easily be remedied in a second edition.

Although the various chapters are almost uniformly good, the reviewer was particularly impressed with the first three introductory chapters and with those on frequency curves (9 and 10) and less well pleased with the final chapter, on sampling. The first three chapters contain an excellent account of the preliminary notions; the material is well chosen and the sequence carefully planned. Much is left unproved here; the account is