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Lectures on the asymptotic theory of ideals, by David Rees. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (London Math Society, Lecture Notes #113), 1988, 200 pp., \$24.95. ISBN 0-521-31127-6

Commutative ring theory was born in the early part of this century, a child of Emmy Noether and Wolfgang Krull (David Hilbert filling in as grandpa). It grew up on a tough block, living between algebraic number theory and algebraic geometry. Those two have always been bigger and brasher, and maybe tried to bully it a bit.