

The selected papers of E. S. Pearson, issued by the Biometrika Trustees to celebrate his 30 years as editor. University of California Press, Berkely and Los Angeles, 1966. \$6.75.

This volume contains a selection of 21 of the 112 papers of Professor Pearson which are listed in the included bibliography. The selection illustrates the range of Professor Pearson's interests and contributions in both applied and theoretical statistics. 10 additional papers, written jointly with Professor Neyman, are to appear as a second volume by the same publisher. Selected early papers of Professor Neyman are to be published as a third volume.

Charles H. Kraft

Les fondements de la géométrie. Tome II: Géométrie projective par Béla Kerékjártó. Gauthier-Villars, Paris, et Académie des Sciences hongroise, 1966. 528 pages. \$14.50.

The first volume of the voluminous work of the well-known Hungarian author deals with euclidean geometry; it was published in Hungarian in 1937. The publication of a French translation was planned, but delayed by the outbreak of the war. In the mean time Kerékjártó worked on the second volume which he completed in 1944. However, war time conditions as well as illness and death of the author (in 1946) caused delay in the publication. The French version of Vol. I "La construction élémentaire de la géométrie euclidienne" was published in 1955 by the Hungarian Academy in Budapest under the editorship of Frédéric Riesz. Publication of the second volume was further held up until finally in 1966 it appeared jointly in Budapest (Akadémiai kiado) and Paris, edited by Györgi Hajós.

"Habent sua fata libelli!" The second volume of the "Fondements de géométrie" shows the same high level which secured world-wide recognition to the first: Careful exposition and complete proofs, unfortunately not always found in books on projective geometry, great precision in the language; but in spite of all this, in the present-day reader the book leaves the impression of something out of long by-gone days. The reason is the following: This book has been written about eight years before the appearance of R. Baer's "Linear Algebra and Projective Geometry" New York, 1952 (work on it must have started about 15 years earlier if we reckon that Kerékjártó started work on it immediately after the completion of the first volume) and it came out 14 years after Baer's book, i. e. after our views on projective geometry had considerably changed. In addition we may mention a certain decline in interest in the foundations of geometry in general and in Hilbert's axiomatics in particular (Kerékjártó's book is indeed much concerned with Hilbert's axiomatics which nowadays might be considered as a certain defect) as well as the fact that in the meantime we had some consistently axiomatic expositions of projective geometry from which I wish to mention in particular H. S. M. Coxeter's