fundamental and far-reaching character of the arithmetic series. One wishes that an equal treatment had been given the geometric series at, say, the expense of magic squares. Even so, this little book should be very stimulating to high school and elementary mathematics teachers who are trying to revitalize their students' interest in numbers.

ED WALTERS
Wm. Penn High School

An Introduction to Probability Theory and Its Applications, Vol. I, 2nd Ed. By William Feller. Wiley, New York, 1957. xv+461 pp. $10.75.

The first edition of this book (Wiley, 1950, reviewed in this MONTHLY, vol. 59, 1952, p. 265) is so well-known that the only pertinent topic for the present review is the extent of the changes.

Feller has long been interested in the probable vagaries of a single sequence of trials as contrasted with the mean behavior of an aggregate of sequences. In this connection he has inserted a new chapter (Chapter III) in which he gives a very elegant, yet elementary, derivation of some rather startling theorems on coin tossing.

The major change is that the theory of recurrent events has been pushed forward so as to permeate the entire book, whereas in the first edition serious consideration of this theory began in Chapter 12. The result of this revision is a remarkable improvement in organization.

The preface to the second edition mentions "space saved by streamlining," but it must be emphasized that the streamlining is in organization, not in exposition. Explanations and examples have been expanded so that what was already an outstanding bit of exposition has been noticeably improved. Type has been completely reset so that these improvements occur on nearly every page. Kudos to Wiley for agreeing to scrap so many costly plates! The result is well worth the increase in price.

One big disappointment to the reviewer: failure to distinguish between a function and one of its values makes the introductory discussion of random variables confusing. Instead of clearing this up, Feller has deleted the one sentence in the first edition that hinted at the explanation. Had he only chosen to expand this now-missing sentence to two pages in his usual expository style, it would have been a real service to the teaching of mathematics in general.

M. E. MUNROE
University of Illinois

BRIEF MENTION

A Freshman Honors Course in Calculus and Analytic Geometry. By Emil Artin. Committee on the Undergraduate Program, Mathematical Association of America, 1957. 126 pp. Free.

The Committee on the Undergraduate Program of the Mathematical Association of America has prepared this edition of Seligman's notes on Artin's

course which is taught to the upper ten or fifteen per cent of the freshmen students enrolled in mathematics at Princeton University. It should certainly be on the active bookshelf of every mathematician interested in teaching gifted students. The Committee on the Undergraduate Program deserves the sincere thanks of mathematicians everywhere for making these notes available without charge. Copies may be obtained by writing directly to Professor H. M. Gehman, Mathematical Association of America, University of Buffalo, Buffalo 14, New York.

Logical Design of Digital Computers. By Montgomery Phister, Jr. Wiley, New York, 1958. xvi+408 pp. $10.50.

This is not a mathematical book even though it contains two chapters on Boolean algebra, including the use of Veitch diagrams to simplify Boolean polynomials. It provides an excellent illustration of the extreme importance of modern abstract algebra in the engineering worlds of today and tomorrow.

Mechanical Resolution of Linguistic Problems. By Andrew D. Booth, L. Brandwood, and J. P. Cleave. Academic Press, New York, 1958. vii+306 pp. $9.80.

The results of the Birkbeck College Computational Laboratory on the application of digital computers to language translation problems are presented without reference to detailed programming. This book belongs in the library of every computing center as well as in departments of modern language.

NEWS AND NOTICES

EDITED BY LLOYD J. MONTZINGO, JR., University of Buffalo

Readers are invited to contribute to the general interest of this department by sending news items to L. J. Montzingo, Jr., Mathematical Association of America, University of Buffalo, Buffalo 14, New York. Items must be submitted at least two months before publication can take place.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Professor F. L. Wolf, Carleton College, represented the Association at the Observance of the Centennial of the Founding of Shattuck School at Faribault, Minnesota, on Friday, June 6, 1958.

Professor R. E. Wheeler, Head of the Department of Mathematics of Howard College, represented the Association at the inauguration of Henry King Stanford as President of Birmingham-Southern College on Friday, April 11, 1958.

Professor Morris Kline, New York University, has received a Fulbright award to lecture at Technische Hochschule in Aachen, Germany, during the academic year 1958–59.

Alabama Polytechnic Institute: Mr. P. W. Lindsey, Jr., has been promoted to Assistant Professor; Mr. S. M. Lukawecki has been appointed Instructor.