

Numbers and Ideals, by Abraham Robinson. Holden-Day, San Francisco, 1965. ix + 106 pages. \$5.95.

The author states that it seems highly desirable to introduce the student at the earliest possible moment to modern methods in this field, methods whose power derives from their great generality but whose beauty might well be missed by anyone unfamiliar with concrete cases. He has therefore devised a text assembled round the theme of ideals in quadratic number fields, intended for undergraduates, school teachers, or even gifted school pupils. It fulfils its purpose admirably.

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An Introduction to Abstract Mathematical Systems, by David M. Burton. Addison Wesley, Publisher, Reading, Mass. 1965. vii + 120 pages. \$3.95.

This book is directed at school teachers and expectedly covers set theory, functions, algebraic systems (specializing to groups and rings) and matrices. Inevitably such a text consists largely of definitions and examples, but this one does manage to go as far as the homomorphism theorem for groups. The author claims "a constant level of rigor" but there are one or two lapses; for instance, he uses the "set of ordered pairs" definition of a function, not the "ordered-triple" definition, but nevertheless tries to define an "onto function" (an epimorphism); and he gives no rigorous definition of operation.

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Elementary Inequalities, by D. S. Mitrinovic. Noordhoff, Ltd. Groningen (Holland), 1964. 159 pages. \$5.75.

This valuable collection starts with the classical inequalities between arithmetic, geometric and harmonic means, soon tackles Bernoulli's, Chebychev's and Abel's inequalities, as well as lesser-known ones like Young's, and in fact consists of 160 closely-packed interesting pages of great value for reference.

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