

Second World War when he was less concerned with the stormy issues of nuclear warfare and the containment of Communist aggression, and more with the basic problems of philosophical research.

"The simplicity of Russel's exposition is astonishing, as is his ability to get to the core of the great philosophical issues and to skillfully probe the depth of philosophical analysis."

W.G Brown, McGill University

Gesammelte Abhandlungen, by Ferdinand Georg Frobenius. Edited by J-P. Serre. Vol. I, vii + 650 pages. Vol. II, 733 pages. Vol. III, 740 pages (with a complete list of all titles). Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1968. U.S. \$34.00.

For many years mathematicians all over the world complained of the fact that Frobenius' mathematical works had never been edited. Most of his 102 research papers had been published in relatively early volumes of Crelle's Journal, almost all those between 1871 and 1893, and from then on until 1917 in the Sitzungsberichte der Preußischen Akademie der Wissenschaften; both these periodicals are directly accessible only in rather extensive libraries. Reprints of the Akademie-papers have been for sale occasionally, but were exhausted rather fast. The continuing great interest in all the main subjects dealt with in Frobenius' many papers, although a great deal of his results are now standard material in text-books on group theory, linear algebra, differential equations, ordinary and partial, elliptic functions, will make this edition a must for all University libraries; the very reasonable price will enable many mathematicians to own the three volumes.

They contain all of Frobenius' published mathematical works in chronological order. No comment or analysis has been attempted for the new edition. The editor even states that "une telle analyse, en effet, eut été fort difficile à faire, et peu utile". "Fort difficile", yes, but "peu utile", no. It would have been extremely useful and desirable to have competent information on open questions mentioned in Frobenius' papers as well as some references to more recent work which either simplifies or extends Frobenius' proofs or results. However, any such attempt would certainly have postponed for many years the appearance of this edition; thus nobody will regret too much the absence of a commentary.

The first volume begins with a short essay "Erinnerungen an Frobenius" by C.L. Siegel who, as a young student, had attended two of Frobenius' lecture courses at the University of Berlin in 1915. According to these notes Frobenius influenced his students only by his splendid lectures, but not by personal contact. It might be mentioned that this essay is particularly interesting in so far as it reveals at least as much on its author as it does on Frobenius.

H. Schwerdtfeger, McGill University