

Book Reviews

A. N. ANDRIANOV, *Quadratic Forms and Hecke Operators*, Springer, 1987, 374 pp.

Hecke algebras and Hecke operators are nearing their hour of triumph, as one of the grand unifying ideas of our day. This book is not exactly recommended for bedside reading, but with a good scratchbook on the side it will provide some years of superior entertainment.

M. A. SHUBIN, *Pseudodifferential Operators and Spectral Theory*, Springer, 1985, 278 pp.

Just a few years ago spectral theory used to be concerned with a generic operator on an unnamed Hilbert space, summarily designated as T . None of that now. The great craftsmen of our century have gone to work on it, and have produced a monument of awesome beauty and depth, one that only a Russian would dare explain in full clarity in less than three hundred pages.

A. LINGIS, *Phenomenological Explanations*, Nijhoff, 1986, 112 pp.

An urbane, *sotto voce* explanation, free of the shouting that is all-too-often heard in certain philosophical quarters, of some of basic ideas of phenomenology, going back to that great genius of philosophy and of obscurity, Edmund Husserl. Ten books like this one and we might be brought to think that Husserl's philosophy is obvious.

B. BOLLOBÁS, *Littlewood's Miscellany*, Cambridge University Press, 1986, 200 pp.

Littlewood was not only one of the great mathematicians of this century, he was also one of the champions of British decency and good manners in mathematics. This reprint of his 1953 classic contains some hilarious and touching additions. How can we force all of our graduate students to read this book, in fact to buy it? Maybe we should have a quiz on Littlewood's miscellany, preceding their orals.

C. B. THOMAS, *Characteristic Classes and the Cohomology of Finite Groups*, Cambridge University Press, 1986, 129 pp.

An unusually concrete introduction to a usually abstract subject. Following the trend of our day, several ideas from different fields are skillfully blended together without making the reading overly heavy, in fact rather pleasing altogether.