form, race, and *subspecies* as synonymous; this usage is hardly in accordance with the most up-to-date taxonomy. But such details primarily emphasize the desirability of agreeing on terms, regardless of the country in which we work, and they scarcely mar the excellence of this fine systematic contribution.

ASHLEY B. GURNEY

Entomological Society of America, Washington 5, D.C.

Simultaneous Linear Equations and the Determination of Eigenvalues. L. J. Paige and Olga Taussky, Eds. National Bureau of Standards, Washington, 1953. (Order from Supt. of Documents, GPO, Washington, D.C.) 126 pp. Illus. $1.50.

As the proceedings of a symposium, held 23–25 Aug. 1951 at Los Angeles, California, under the sponsorship of the National Bureau of Standards, in cooperation with the Office of Naval Research, this book contains 19 reports. Eight of these reports deal primarily with general methods, procedures, or theories; seven are concerned with special methods or special machines for computing; three involve interpretation or applications to physical or related mathematical fields; one is bibliographical. Nearly all the papers emphasize the development of computing procedures suited to the capabilities of high-speed digital computing machines, in which the effort and time required for input and output are more important than the number or complexity of internal operations. The resulting problems of the degree of approximation of output data are prominent in most of the papers.

C. R. CASSITY

Research and Development Division, New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology

A Symposium on the Mechanism of Enzyme Action. William D. McElroy and Bentley Glass, Eds. Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Md., 1954. xvi + 819 pp. Illus. $11.

This volume, which contains the formal presentations and informal discussions of the Fourth McCollum-Pratt Institute Symposium, maintains the high level of excellence that has characterized this series. The general problem of the mechanism of enzyme action has been considered from a variety of standpoints, each aspect being thoroughly reviewed by experts in the field.

Of particular long-range value to chemists working in this area of biochemistry are the reviews presented on the aspects of enzymatic catalysis that are still in a highly developmental stage. Discussions by Kirkwood, Kauzmann, Eyring, Calvin, Klotz, and others are exceedingly stimulating, because of their frank appraisal of the present state of knowledge of the enzyme as a protein and because they indicate some of the essential pathways of research which must be followed for a clearer understanding of enzymatic catalysis. The volume also contains a valuable series of reviews on the mechanism of electron and hydrogen transport and on the general features of group transfers in enzymatic reactions. These subjects are reviewed in such a manner that this volume should serve as a definitive source of literature for some time, even in fields that move as rapidly as these.

As was the case with the previous volumes in this series, the inclusion of informal discussions with a minimum of editorial modification provides additional expansion of the subjects covered in the formal sections as well as a personal touch of humor and whimsy too frequently absent in the discussions of all-too-serious scientists. Bentley Glass has presented his usual well-sifted summary of the entire symposium.

It seems to me that the scientific value of these symposia and the volumes resulting from them is so nearly self-evident that any comments are unnecessary. Nevertheless, for what one man's opinion is worth, the book is highly recommended to students of biochemistry in all stages of development and should be included on any modern bookshelf in this field.

C. B. ANFINSEN

Laboratory of Cellular Physiology, National Heart Institute, Bethesda 14, Maryland

Higher Transcendental Functions, vols. I and II. Based, in part, on notes left by Harry Bateman. Bateman Project Staff, A. Erdélyi, Ed. McGraw-Hill, New York–London, 1953. vol. I, xxvi + 302 pp., $6.50; vol. II, xviii + 396 pp., $7.50.

Tables of Integral Transforms, vol. I. Based, in part, on notes left by Harry Bateman. Bateman Project Staff, A. Erdélyi, Ed. McGraw-Hill, New York–London, 1954. xx + 391 pp. $7.50.

The late Harry Bateman projected a definitive compilation of information about, among other things, special functions and definite integrals, and he left an enormous amount of manuscript material on these subjects. The Bateman Manuscript Project was set up in 1948 by the California Institute of Technology, with support from the Office of Naval Research, to continue Bateman's work. It employed four noted specialists —A. Erdélyi, W. Magnus, F. Oberhettinger, and F. Tricomi—and several assistants. It has now produced these magnificent volumes, which should be on the desk of every scientist who ever has to solve any but the simplest differential equation or evaluate any but the simplest definite integral. One more volume of functions and one more of tables are still to appear.

The scope of these books is not as broad as that dreamed of by Bateman (and actually only a small part of his manuscript material could be used), but the books certainly embody the most useful parts of Bateman's plan and present information in a way that is not even approached elsewhere, either in thoroughness or in ease of reference. It will no longer take less time to derive afresh the properties of a special function needed in a particular problem than to search the literature for them.