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Crystal structure of double oxides of the perovskite type

purposes subtabulation of several of the functions would be welcome, although inevitably bulky. In this connection it is relevant to remark that since 1931 a new standard for the close tabulation of a large number of functions has been established by the publications of the New York Mathematical Tables Project.

Criticism of a book because it is not a whole library is, however, unfair. The volume under review contains a diverse, interesting and most useful collection of tables which yield their full value to those prepared to interpolate accurately. The price is very moderate, despite the fact that the present binding is not sufficiently stout for its hard future. It is a pleasure to consult tables so elegantly set and printed. M. S. JONES.

The Music Review, Vol. VII, No. 1. (Heffer & Sons, Cambridge.) 5*s*.

This number contains an article by B. van der Pol on " Music and Elementary Theory of Numbers ", which deals with time and rhythm, absolute and relative pitch, Euler's theory of dissonance, musical scales, relaxation oscillations and variations of musical pitch. The author's investigations on the variation in pitch between orchestras which broadcast was described in Vol. VII of the *Progress Reports* (pp. 33–34). The remaining topics are considered either in Helmholtz's *Sensations of Tone* or in modern textbooks of sound, but the musical physicist will find in this article a useful summary of present knowledge in this field, and also some useful observations on the sense of absolute pitch, studied by the author, himself a musician with this gift and with the scientist's sense of impartiality. E. G. R.

Statistical Thermodynamics, by ERWIN SCHRÖDINGER. Pp. 88. (Cambridge: The University Press, 1946). 6*s*.

This very small book contains a great deal of material, which was originally presented as a course of lectures at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, in the spring of 1944. It is hardly a reference work to which a man would turn when presented with a specific problem which he wished to solve, but rather a background exposition which he should read and ponder when he is not busy applying statistical methods to particular problems.

Schrödinger adopts the attitude that there is only one problem in statistical thermodynamics, that of determining the distribution of an amount E of energy over N similar systems, which may be only mental copies of one real system. From this starting point he considers how the distributions may be enumerated, and in doing so he is led to discuss the logical bases of the procedure, and also to sketch the mathematical apparatus normally used. He is more interested in the difficulties of the theory than in those parts where all is straightforward, and consequently has written a most stimulating book, which is well worth its price. Incidentally, though produced under war-time conditions, the book is pleasant to handle and to look at—a tribute to the skill of the printers. Among matters which are discussed are the setting equal to zero of the constant entropy which remains in a crystalline system at absolute zero, and the relationship between the classical, the Bose-Einstein and the Fermi-Dirac statistics. All these are subjects on which a great deal has been written before, but the author's peculiar quality of illuminating those matters on which he writes makes his treatment very well worthy of study. J. H. A.

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" Crystal structure of double oxides of the perovskite type ", by HELEN D. MEGAW (*Proc. Phys. Soc.*, **58**, p. 133).

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