To summarize, the authors accomplish their objective painlessly and professionally. The book merits the serious consideration of teachers of mathematics at all levels.

W. G. Brown, McGill University

Finite functions: an introduction to combinatorial mathematics, by Henry Sharp Jr. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N. J., 1965. vii + 97 pages. $4.25.

The first half of this book is devoted to definitions notation and obvious theorems in "sets and functions"; the latter half does the same for combinatorial mathematics. Not one substantial theorem is proved. The net effect is to completely hide the natural beauty of combinatorics in a deluge of unnecessary and confusing jargon and notation - another example of the "new" mathematics. One definition and one theorem, taken from the book, will suffice to illustrate its spirit. On page 45: "Definition: A characteristic function on the finite set A is called a combination on A. If the characteristic function has power r, then it is called a combination of power r on A".

After explaining: "Let n be a positive integer and f be the function defined on $\{0, 1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ by the formula $f(r) = \{n\}_r$", (the author uses $\{n\}_r$ instead of the universally accepted $\binom{n}{r}$ to denote $n!/r!(n-r)!$) the author states, on page 51, "Theorem: For a given positive integer n, let m be such that $n = 2m$ or $n = 2m + 1$. Then the maximum value in f is $f(m)$. Furthermore, if n is even then $f(m) > f(r)$ for all $r \neq m$, and if n is odd then $f(m) = f(m+1)$ and $f(m) > f(r)$ for all r except m and m+1."

This book can take its rightful place, on the lowest shelf of the bookcase, next to Selby and Sweet's "Sets, relations, functions: An introduction", to which the author refers.

William Moser, McGill University

Ordinary differential equations - a first course, by Fred Brauer and John A. Nohel. W.A. Benjamin, Inc., New York, 1967. $10.75.

Undergraduate textbooks in ordinary differential equations abound. The book under review combines many of the desirable features to be found in its predecessors. It strikes a reasonable balance between mathematical rigour and intuitive motivation.

The topics covered are, in order: first order equations; equations with constant coefficients; series methods; boundary value problems; linear systems; existence theorems; numerical methods; Laplace transform. This order is pedagogically sound - it passes naturally from easy to hard topics. Of course the existence theorem