

## BOOK REVIEW

### MATHEMATICAL QUICKIES

Charles W. Trigg

Mc-Graw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1967, xi+210 pp. \$7.95

Mathematical "Quickies" were introduced in March, 1950, by Charles W. Trigg, when he was serving as editor of the Problems and Questions Department of the Mathematics Magazine. A Quickie is a problem whose solution appears at first encounter to require laborious methods, but which by proper insight can be disposed of with dispatch. The Quickies caught on at once and have retained their popularity in the Mathematics Magazine ever since.

This book is divided into two parts. In the first part is a superb collection of 270 Quickies, chosen from such diverse fields as arithmetic, algebra, plane and solid geometry, trigonometry, number theory, and recreational mathematics (magic squares, dissections, cryptarithms, etc.). In the second part appear elegant solutions to the Quickies. The problems are all interesting, stimulating, and challenging, and a reader should try to solve them himself before peeking at the ingenious solutions offered in the second part of the book; he may even on occasion come up with a superior solution.

There is room for cleverness in mathematics, and this feature of problem solving is excellently illustrated in this book. The material should appeal to mathematics enthusiasts of all ages and levels of sophistication, and should be invaluable in the arsenals of school teachers and college instructors. It is hoped that Dean Trigg, who is one of the country's outstanding problemists, will dip into his great collection of Quickies and, at some date not too far in the future, give us Some More Mathematical Quickies.

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