# BOOK REVIEWS

Men of Mathematics Vols 1 & 2 by E.T. Bell.
Published by Penguin Books, $0.95 per volume.

How many of the great mathematicians have you heard of? Of those you know what do you know of their lives? For example, did you know that Isaac Newton, when he was a boy, made a kite with a lantern in it to scare the people of his village at night? Or did you know that Galois found it so hard to write things down that when he had to do an examination on a blackboard he threw the duster at the examiner and hit him on the head? These, and many other facts are revealed in these two volumes, which also delve into the private lives of such mathematicians as Archimedes, Descartes, Pascal, Leibniz, Euler, Laplace, Gauss, Cauchy (Vol 1), Abel, Boole, Riemann, Cantor (Vol 2) and many others. This is a must for your bookshelves as the hardcover version is for your school library.


Vision in Elementary Mathematics by W.W. Sawyer.
Published by Penguin Books, $0.85.

Prof. Sawyer writes this book with the view that mathematics is difficult because of the way it is taught. Thus he shows that algebra is only a language, that it arises out of arithmetic, and that it is easy to do algebraic calculations. Although the book seems to be written for teachers of Primary and lower Secondary classes, it is also easy for students themselves to read.

This is the first in a series of books by Sawyer called "Introducing Mathematics", the second of which is not yet printed as a Pelican book.


The Search for Pattern, $1.35.

This is the third book in the above series and seeks to show that a lot of mathematics can be learnt by experiment. To do this, Professor Sawyer makes use of much of the science you are learning at school to illustrate mathematical results.


A Path to Modern Mathematics, $0.85.

This, the fourth book in the above series, is the most advanced, and so mainly for senior students. Prof. Sawyer suggests ways of teaching (and learning) such topics as Matrices, Transformations and abstract algebraic structures.

R. James.