Theory of Optimum Aerodynamic Shapes, A. Miele, editor. Academic Press, New York, 1965. xix+455 pages. U.S. $16.50.

Subtitled, "Extremal Problems in the Aerodynamics of Supersonic, Hypersonic, and Free-Molecular Flows", this book is a collection of papers by the following authors: A. Miele, G. Drougge, R. E. Pritchard, C. Ferrari, R. T. Jones, A. H. Lusty, Jr., G. V. R. Rao, K. G. Guderley, J. V. Armitage, W. D. Hayes, D. G. Hull, J. D. Cole, A. J. Eggers, Jr., E. Large, A. E. Bryson, Jr., G. G. Chernyi, A. L. Gonor, G. R. Saaris, R. Bellman, Hao Sung Tan.

Stability of Motion, by Wolfgang Hahn. Springer-Verlag, New York Inc., 1967. U.S. $19.80.

It is a common and often disreputable practice among technical book reviewers to quote at length from the books they review. However, every so often a truly first rate book is written on some topic and, in this reviewer's opinion, the author, who laboured over the manuscript, can express the purpose of the book more clearly than this hack, who is reviewing the book just to save $19.80. Professor Hahn's book is indeed a first rate introduction to the theory of stability of motion and I shall let him explain its purpose himself. The following is quoted from the preface:

"The theory of the stability of motion has gained increasing significance in the last decades as is apparent from the large number of publications on the subject. A considerable part of this work is concerned with practical problems, especially problems from the area of controls and servo-mechanisms, and concrete problems from engineering were the ones which first gave the decisive impetus for the expansion and modern development of stability theory.

In comparison with the many single publications, which are numbered in the thousands, the number of books on stability theory, and especially books not written in Russian, is extraordinarily small.