



Review

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Methodisches Lehrbuch der Elementar-Mathematik. Erster Theil.
By GUSTAV HOLZMÜLLER. Pp. xi+319. 1904. (Teubner.)

England is not the only country which is afflicted with the Euclidean controversy. The preface to the fourth edition of this well-known text-book is devoted almost entirely to the theory of geometrical teaching. The author substitutes a discussion of fundamental notions and a series of exercises in geometrical drawing for formal definitions, postulates, and problems. These pave the way for theorems based on congruence and symmetry, and thus most of Euclid I-VI is covered in an order very different from that adopted in this country. The remainder of the book is more English in its methods, except that Arithmetic and Algebra are taught side by side; a pleasing feature made possible by the use of a metric system. Indices and logarithms are included in the course, but progressions are absent. Twenty pages are devoted to the elements of trigonometry, and fifty to mensuration and exercises in perspective drawing; the examples in the latter part are mostly those useful in crystallography.

H. H.

An Introduction to Elementary Statics (treated graphically). By R. NETTELL, M.A. 2s. (London, Edward Arnold.)

This Introduction to Elementary Statics consists of a number of examples to be solved by drawing force diagrams and then measuring. The collection shows only too clearly the main drawback to a purely graphical treatment—that principles are lost sight of, when the method is applied to many similar examples. The author might have gone further afield in making choice of his examples, and we hardly think that he has fulfilled the proposal expressed in the preface of “choosing, as far as possible, examples connected with familiar objects to every schoolboy.” A claw-hammer, a bell crank lever, a letter weighing machine, a skylight window, and other familiar objects suggest themselves to one who has glanced through the pages of this book.

R. M. M.

Elementary Geometry of the Straight Line, Circle, and Plane Rectilinear Figures. By CECIL HAWKINS. Part II. Pp. 167-296. 2s. 1904. (Blackie.)

We fear that quite innocently on our part we may have done some slight injury to the circulation of Mr. Hawkins' *Geometry* by a remark made on p. 144. The copy sent us from the publishers contained no answers, and naturally we commented adversely on the publication of this excellent edition without the numerical results. We now learn that the book is published with and without answers, the price in both cases being the same. We sincerely hope that owing to this oversight on the part of the publishers we have not induced any teachers to pass over a book of which we have otherwise spoken in terms of praise.

Logarithmic Plotting Scales. ASTON & MANDER, 61 Old Compton Street.

These are boxwood scales graduated with values of logarithms, \log_{10} or unity being represented by 10 inches. They are intended for use in graphical work illustrative of the leading properties of logarithms.

A straight line is so much more easily drawn than any other locus that it is often worth while to transform an equation so that the corresponding graph becomes a straight line.

Thus, if $v = u^w$ and we plot $x = \log u$, $y = \log v$, we have a “logarithmic” graph which is a straight line.

Again, if $v = ae^u$, and we put $\log_{10} e = m$, $\log_{10} a = 0$, $x = u$, $y = \log_{10} v$, and plot x and y , we obtain a semi-logarithmic graph which is a straight line. Paper ruled accurately, either logarithmically or semi-logarithmically, can be obtained from Messrs. Pye, Cambridge, and probably from other makers, and is most useful for important work, but it is rather expensive for use in class, and these scales are intended to furnish a substitute.

Mathematical Apparatus, Instruments, etc.

We have received from Messrs. George Philip & Sons a box of wooden models dissected, which has been prepared by Mr. Thorold Gosset for the practical demonstration of various geometrical theorems. The six theorems which the models are primarily intended to demonstrate are: Euc. I. 36, 41, 38, 43,