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## Review

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younger readers who rest under some disadvantage in their desire to become acquainted with the trend of modern thought in the regions of physics and biology; and we think that in this series they will find the pabulum for which they crave, readily accessible, and at a most moderate cost.

**Exercices Méthodiques de Calcul Integral.** By E. BRAHY. Pp. viii, 302. 1903. (Gauthier-Villars.)

The private student will find this excellent collection of examples of considerable value, if read and worked out *pari passu* with the usual text-book. The first ten chapters take the reader up to volumes and surfaces. The next eight deal with elementary differential equations. A goodly number of the integrals and equations are worked out at length, and to each section and chapter are appended plenty of worked exercises. The fact that new editions of the exercises in the Differential Calculus, by the author of this little volume, and of Frenet's somewhat similar collection of exercises on the Infinitesimal Calculus, have appeared within the last couple of years would seem to shew that books of this class appeal to a large number of students abroad. In view of the stress that is to be laid in future in the Inter. Sci. and B.Sc. on the knowledge of French and German, this would form a useful volume for those who wish to make themselves acquainted in the former language with the various technical expressions of the Calculus.

**Obras sobre Mathematica.** By F. GOMES TEXEIRA. Vol. i., pp. 402. 1904. (The University Press, Coimbra.)

This handsome volume, published by Professor Teixeira at the instance of the Portuguese Government, contains the first instalment of the many memoirs and notes of the author, which until now have been scattered throughout the pages of mathematical journals in French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and German, the greater number being in the first-named language. They deal with both analytical and geometrical subjects, and include what we believe is the best piece of work the author has done—his researches on the development of functions in series, which have appeared at intervals during the last seven or eight years. Other interesting articles treat of curves parallel to the ellipse, the equipotential curve, Descartes' Ovals, Pascal's Limaçon, and the convergence of formulae of interpolation. Many indeed are the claims on the Treasury of this country, but in our wildest dreams we have never thought of asking the Government of the day to publish even the collected works of a Cayley, a Sylvester, or a Stokes.

**Scherz und Ernst in der Mathematik.** By W. AHRENS. **Geflügelte und Ungeflügelte Worte.** Pp. x, 522. 1904. (Teubner.)

This entertaining volume consists of extracts, winged and otherwise, from the writings, addresses, letters, etc., of the most famous German, French, and English mathematicians. A few examples will give an idea of the miscellaneous nature of the contents. "Geometry is the only science which has produced no sects" (Frederick the Great). "D'Alembert, that great genius, seems to be far too ready to pull down everything he has not himself built up" (Euler to Lagrange). "I am delighted at the contrast between your modesty and the good opinion that other geometers have of themselves, although they have certainly nothing like the same claim. You are a living instance of what you said to me some time ago, that pretensions are ever in an inverse ratio to merit" (d'Alembert to Lagrange). "Leibnitz never married. At the age of 50 he began to think about it, but the lady asked for time to reflect. This gave Leibnitz time to reflect—and he did not marry" (Fontenelle). "My dear and illustrious friend—they write to me from Berlin that you are about to take what we philosophers call 'le saut périlleux,' and that you have married one of your relations. . . . Accept my compliments, for a mathematician ought to have pre-eminent advantages in the calculations of—his own happiness, and any calculations of yours are sure to lead to a solution—the solution in your case being marriage" (d'Alembert to Lagrange).

"Petit Poisson deviendra grand  
Pourvu que Dieu lui prête vie" (Laplace of S. D. Poisson).