



Review

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Also, $y_1 y_2 y_3 = \frac{-4a^3}{t} = \frac{-8a^4}{y_4}$ if y_4 denote the ordinate of the point of contact of the tangent to the parabola.

That is,

$$y_1 \cdot y_2 \cdot y_3 \cdot y_4 + 8a^4 = 0.$$

Similarly, we find

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + 2x_4 = 4a.$$

M. T. NARAYANA IYENGAR.

REVIEWS.

Les Mathématiques en Portugal. 2nd edition by R. GUIMARÃES. Pp. 655. (University of Coimbra). 1909.

A most interesting opening sketch of the history of mathematics in Portugal extends to some hundred pages. This is followed by a general catalogue of all works written by Portuguese mathematicians, wherever published, and of memoirs contributed to mathematical publications both at home and abroad. It is interesting to note that among the Albuquerque, and Pintos, and Pereiras we occasionally see names as familiar to British eyes as Fisher and Woodhouse. To most of the important papers Capt. Guimarães has appended a summary, sometimes critical, in French. We do not quite know whether the gallant captain wishes to reflect upon the editors of mathematical journals in his native land, or whether he has, perhaps injudiciously, chosen this opportunity of pouring out the phials of his contempt upon an individual, but the treatment accorded to M. Antonio Cabreira exceeds in license all that we have ever seen in any bibliography. We mention this because we have received a pamphlet of protest from the unfortunate M. Cabreira, protesting against the manner in which he has been singled out. As we have no means of judging whether the scathing criticisms of the compiler are justified or not, we have thought it only fair to place on record M. Cabreira's expostulation. It certainly adds nothing to the value of a compilation such as this to be told of any author that "sa bouffissure et sa suffisance s'y étalent complaisamment comme dans d'autres de ses travaux." The linguistic equipment of Capt. Guimarães for his task is perhaps now and again at fault, as may be seen from the following delicious "appreciation" of the Portuguese Nautical Almanac. It "is adopted to the meridian of the University or Observatory of Coimbra and possesses some peculiarities not found in other almanacs of this class. The Sun's R.A. is expressed in arc and not in time; the positions of the fixed stars are omitted; the lunar distances are given for intervals of 12 hours and not for 3 as in other almanacs, but what is utterly useless both to the astronomer and navigator, is the time when the Moon enters the signs of the zodiac. Perhaps this uniformation is intended for the use of the rural population who may to some extent be guided thereby in their agricultural operations. It is the only trace of astrology to be found to day in any almanac or ephemeris of any scientific pretensions." And this is said to be a quotation from *Popular Astronomy*.

Obras sobre Mathematica. By Dr. F. GOMES TEIXEIRA. Published by order of the Portuguese Government. Vol. V. Pp. 497. 1909. (University Press, Coimbra.)

This volume is a translation into French of the second part of the author's "Treatise on Plane and Gauche Curves," the first part of which has already been noticed in the *Gazette*. It forms a fitting complement to the rich store with which we were presented in its predecessor. Dr. Teixeira has laid under tribute practically the whole of available mathematical literature. Vast as is his display of erudition, he has marshalled, modernised, and presented his material with great skill. And when we note, as is often the case, the elegance of his methods in continuing or completing an investigation, we could lament that the time the author has spent upon analysis has not been devoted to geometry. It is a pity that the special difficulties attending the translation from his native tongue were not more clearly anticipated by Dr. Teixeira. To the long list of errata appended at the end of this volume