

of elementary texts have appeared, designed to meet the needs of the new class of pupils in this subject. The present book begins with a detailed concrete explanation of the elements of descriptive geometry. All definitions are put in bold-faced type. Solid bodies are depicted on the ground, vertical, and profile planes, and various objects are drawn to show that all three elevations are generally necessary. The straight line, plane, prism, pyramid, and regular bodies are treated in succession, a number of unsolved exercises being appended to each case. Then follow the circle, cylinder, cone, and sphere. After these ideas are mastered, the pupil is prepared to take up parallel perspective, wherein the same figures are treated again, but rather more concisely. Finally, a few pages are devoted to central perspective; methods are given for constructing a perspective picture of an object when its ground plan and profile are given. The author explains in the preface that the arrangement of subject matter is new, that heretofore too much emphasis has been laid on perspective drawing. One is tempted to feel that he has possibly gone to the other extreme, but at any rate the intelligent reader has not been bored by a multitude of details, and will finish the book thirsty for more. The typographical work is excellent; the figures are crude, but easily understood. The usefulness of this little book should not be confined to the German gymnasias.

VIRGIL SNYDER.

*Petrus Peregrinus de Maricourt and his Epistola de Magnete.* By SILVANUS P. THOMPSON, D.Sc., F.R.S. From the *Proceedings of the British Academy*, Volume II. London, published for the British Academy by Henry Frowde, Oxford University Press. 32 pp.

FOR thirty years Professor S. Thompson has made a study of the early history of magnetism, whenever opportunity presented itself for the examination of original sources. A result of this study is this article on Petrus Peregrinus and his famous Epistle on magnetism that was "done in camp at the siege of Lucera, Anno Domini 1269, the eighth day of August." No student of the history of science in the time of Peter Peregrinus and Roger Bacon can afford to overlook this article of Professor Thompson. He gives a list of the twenty-eight different ancient manuscript copies of the Epistle, tells where each is found and compares them. Two of these are in his own posses-