

Gherardo of Cremona probably used the word *sinus* before Plato of Tivoli. As to the symbol for infinity ascribed to Wallis, a rather hasty examination of his Opera fails to show that he used the one mentioned, but he may have done so.

It is perhaps justifiable to revert to one point of criticism already mentioned, and to inquire whether Dr. White has used his talents to their best advantage in planning and executing such a work. There is an undoubted need for a good book on mathematical recreations arranged more systematically than any that has yet appeared; one that shall place the material in somewhat the order that a teacher or pupil may use it, and that shall rather carefully exhaust the available material in the large number of works on the subject. To write with no extensive knowledge of the best modern works on the subject, such as Ahrens's and Schubert's, and of such noteworthy older works as those of Bachet and Ozanam is to render impossible the accomplishment of such a labor.

It must be repeated, however, that the author makes no pretense to this sort of work, and it is only fair to say that he has given us a very readable book for a summer afternoon.

DAVID EUGENE SMITH.

Royal Society of London Catalogue of Scientific Papers 1800–1900. Subject Index, Volume I, Pure Mathematics. Cambridge, at the University Press, 1908. lviii + 666 pp. Price \$6.75.

THIS is the first volume of a subject index which is to be published as "separate index-volumes for each of the seventeen sciences of the Schedules of the International Catalogue, viz., mathematics, mechanics, physics, chemistry, astronomy, meteorology, mineralogy, geology, geography, palaeontology, biology, botany, zoology, anatomy, anthropology, physiology, and bacteriology." The object is to bring this Index into close relation with the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature by adopting the same general method of classification and by indexing the papers of the whole of the nineteenth century, while the International Catalogue is devoted to the literature following this period. The present Index has also close contact with the well known Catalogue of Authors which is being issued by the Royal Society, and of which twelve large volumes (1800–1883) have been published, while those covering the period from 1884 to 1900 are in preparation.