

It carries the work in subjects like the roots so far that the ordinary Rechenmeister could not have used it. Moreover, it is written in Latin and is much more extended than the work of Gemma Frisius, so that it appealed neither to the business school nor to the ordinary classical school. A great deal of attention is given to exchange, the rule of three, and the extracting of roots of high order. Attention is also given to problems which would now form part of algebra, and there is a brief treatment of geometry from the standpoint of mensuration.

“While Scheubel is not much appreciated to-day, he was really ahead of his time. He tried to banish the expression ‘rule of three’ and to substitute ‘rule of proportion.’ His explanation of square root is in some respects the best of the century, and he dismisses with mere mention the ‘duplatio’ and ‘mediatio’ of his contemporaries. He extracts various roots as far as the 24th, finding the binomial coefficients by means of the Pascal triangle a century before Pascal made the device famous.”

As to its usefulness, this is a work which no bibliographer of rare books will fail to consult. It will become an authoritative source for writers of mathematical history and the standard reference book on sixteenth century arithmetic for scholars in mathematics everywhere. It would be wasteful of the reviewer’s space to speak of the author, because his special fitness is known to practically every student of the history of mathematics, and his scholarship stamps with authority all of his productions.

LAMBERT L. JACKSON.

*Coordinate Geometry.* By HENRY BURCHARD FINE and HENRY DALLAS THOMPSON. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1909. 8vo. 8 + 300 pp.

It was generally considered by the writers of the earlier American text-books on analytical geometry and by those who then taught the subject that the material for a first course consisted of the chief metrical properties of the separate species of conic sections. There is a marked similarity between the text in these books and the easier portions of Chapters I, II, VI, X, XI, XII of Salmon’s *Treatise on Conic Sections* (edition of 1869). Within recent years, however, there has been a marked tendency among some of the teachers to regard the acquisition of these isolated facts about parabolas, ellipses, and