

profit and pleasure in its perusal. It will furnish excellent collateral reading in connection with a course on the mathematical theory of probability.

R. D. CARMICHAEL.

*An Introduction to the Mathematical Theory of Heat Conduction with Engineering and Geological Applications.* By L. R. INGERSOLL and O. J. ZOBEL. Boston, Ginn and Company, 1913. vi + 171 pp.

THIS is a text on Fourier's series and heat conduction. The aim of the volume is to make the study of the subject more interesting and profitable by presenting along with the theory a large number of practical applications. These are chosen so as to make the book of direct service to geologists and engineers. Several of the practical problems which thus come in are here treated for the first time. The pulse of the concrete world throbs in every chapter and it has a healthy beat which gives one pleasure.

This book is intended for the student who has neither time nor mathematical preparation to pursue the study at great length. Consequently very little attention is given to such mathematical aspects of the theory as uniqueness, existence and convergence theorems. Hence the book will not be of special value to one interested primarily in mathematics. But its clear treatment of numerous practical applications will render it of distinct service to those for whom it was prepared, namely, students of physics and engineering who desire an elementary and brief treatment of the conduction of heat.

The arrangement of material, from a pedagogic point of view, is most excellent and deserves to be signalized with emphasis. The exposition is clear and interesting.

R. D. CARMICHAEL.

*Le Système du Monde. Histoire des Doctrines cosmologiques de Platon à Copernic.* Tome premier. Par PIERRE DUHEM. Paris, Hermann, 1913. 512 pp.

THE whole of the present volume is given to an account of the Hellenic cosmology beginning essentially with that of Plato. In order that the reader may understand better the doctrines of Plato and his successors a brief exposition is first given (pages 5-27) of the earlier astronomical teachings of