

Pythagoras and the school founded by him. Following this is an illuminating account of the cosmology of Plato (pages 28–101) and certain developments of it among his followers (pages 102–129).

The most interesting part of the book is that (pages 130–241) in which the “physics” of Aristotle is treated.

The remaining four (of the eight) chapters deal in order with the following topics: the theories of time, space, and the void after Aristotle (pages 242–350); the dynamics of the Greeks after Aristotle (pages 351–398); the heliocentric astronomies (pages 399–426); the astronomy of excentrics and epicycles (pages 427–496).

Throughout the book the work of the author seems to have been done with care. The exposition is good. The matter brought together is of the highest interest to every student of the history of science. There is, however, but little of it which makes a special appeal to the mathematician as such; and that little consists of such beginnings of mathematical sciences as Aristotle’s argument (see pages 213–214) to prove the sphericity of the surface of still water, this being the first instance (according to our author) in which mathematical reasoning has been used to establish a law of equilibrium for heavy liquids.

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IN preparing the course in mechanics given at l’Ecole Polytechnique Professor Lecornu has apparently met difficulties similar to those encountered by the teachers in the technical schools of America. In the first place the time allotted to the subject is only 37 lessons for each of two years. This has made it necessary to put a portion of the kinematics of a point into the entrance requirements, and to transfer kinematics of machines to the course in geometry and the theory of the potential to the course in analysis. All of these topics are, however, discussed at length in the present volume.

In the second place the author has had to resist a demand for the teaching of practical applications with the necessary omission of much of the pure theory. He is firm in his belief that the course in l’Ecole Polytechnique should be purely theoretical. His position is stated in the preface and, among