

pupil P. Pepper who worked out proofs for theorems stated by Minkowski.

As will be seen from this description, the book restricts itself entirely to Minkowski's own work in the geometry of numbers. Professor Hancock explains in the introduction that this was done in order to limit the content of the book which otherwise would have been beyond bounds. Still, one may regret that the newer developments were not at least indicated. There is another factor which decreases the value of the book, this being that the representation often is not as good as one may wish (compare, for instance, Article 8 with the corresponding section of the *Diophantische Approximationen*). The different parts of the book could have been connected more closely. Finally, there are numerous misprints some of which are confusing. In the opinion of the reviewer, it would not be surprising, if many readers should prefer the original texts. On the other hand, there will be many mathematicians who will be very grateful to Professor Hancock for facilitating for them access to Minkowski's beautiful investigations.

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Enzyklopädie der mathematischen Wissenschaften mit Einschluss ihrer Anwendungen. Band I, Teil 1, Heft 2, 114 pp.; Band I₁, Teil 1, Heft 4, 51 pp.; Band I₁, Heft 5. 54+54+28 pp. Leipzig and Berlin, Teubner, 1939.

This new edition of the *Enzyklopädie der Mathematischen Wissenschaften* appears exactly forty years after the publication of the first volume of the first edition in 1899. The original project of compiling and presenting a comprehensive review of the science of mathematics and its allied fields was considered a monumental and ambitious task which aroused great interest among contemporary mathematicians. The initiative to the *Enzyklopädie* was taken by Felix Klein, Heinrich Weber and Franz Meyer and a great number of other prominent mathematicians was gradually associated with this initial group. To begin with, the work had been planned in the form of a regular encyclopedia in which the material should appear as special articles for each mathematical term. After an early attempt along these lines it became clear that this method of presentation led to considerable overlapping and the artificial classification of the subjects according to the alphabet tended to make them incoherent and lacking in general views. This prompted the fortunate decision of giving a systematic account of the field of mathematics in which the various articles on the subdivisions of the science were fitted into their natural connections as far as it was possible. It may also be remarked