

A TREATISE ON PHYSICS.

Traité de Physique. Par O. D. CHWOLSON. *Ouvrage traduit sur les éditions russe et allemande* par E. DAVAUX. *Édition revue et considérablement augmentée* par l'Auteur, suivie de *Notes sur la Physique théorique* par E. et F. COSSERAT. Tome 1: *Mécanique. Etats de la matière. Acoustique.* vii + 1092 pp. 1908. Tome 2: *L'Energie rayonnante.* 1188 pp. 1909. Paris, A. Hermann.

DESPITE the fact, and perhaps for the very reason that teachers of the first general collegiate course in physics, which usually falls in the sophomore year, are widely and chronically of the opinion that there exists no text suited to their needs, there are upon the market a great variety of elementary general treatises on physics, varying from a moderate volume of three or four hundred pages to lengthy works of three or four times the size, like that old standby Ganot. When we come to more advanced compendia, suitable for the maturer student of physics, we have not many to choose from, and none, so far as we recall, in the English language. Indeed it might well be questioned whether, with the present extended and rapidly growing domain of physics, it would be possible for a single author properly to cover the whole ground, whether it might not be necessary to fall back upon collaborations as in Winkelmann's *Handbuch der Physik*. We may remember that over ten years ago A. Gray printed a first volume of a *Treatise on Physics*,* which in its masterly manner gave promise of being just what was needed in this line; but apparently the work has been abandoned, much to our disappointment. However, Chwolson has succeeded in carrying a similar task, monumental as it is, to an eminently satisfactory conclusion.

So long as Chwolson's work remained in the original Russian it could be of little use outside of Russia. But as surely as a first class work appears the Germans, often in the guise of the house of B. G. Teubner, are apt to find it out and to publish a translation; this time, however, it was the firm of Vieweg und Sohn who rendered the German and international public the service of printing Chwolson's treatise in German. That

* Reviewed in this BULLETIN, volume 8, p. 403.