

*Der Wert der Wissenschaft.* Von HENRI POINCARÉ. Uebersetzen von E. WEBER, mit Anmerkungen und Zusätzen von H. WEBER. Zweite Auflage mit einem Vorwort des Verfassers. Leipzig, Teubner, 1910. 8vo. viii + 251 pages. 3 Marks.

THIS edition of the second volume in Poincaré's series of three volumes dealing with the fundamental concepts of science appeared after the book had reached its fourteenth thousand in the French editions. This fact indicates the widespread interest which it inspired. The masterly way in which the real significance of scientific facts and theories is brought out, and that which is permanent and abiding in the shifting lights of the new discoveries of science made evident, appeals to every philosophic mind.

This particular edition is enriched with a preface by Poincaré, in which he considers the service that industrial science renders to pure science. After speaking of the amazement of the multitude that the truth of today in science becomes so easily the error on tomorrow, and their consequent belief that the discoveries of science are after all of less significance than we suppose, he continues thus:

"And I am not speaking here of those abstract truths that have become so general that they have lost all precise significance; truths spelled in capitals and a source of wonder, but of whose meaning we can say nothing. The permanent truths of science are the facts, not only the crude facts but also the true relations between the facts; what changes is the language in which the facts are expressed; the mode of expression changes because on the old facts falls the light reflected by the new, which are discovered every instant and which must be expressed as well as one can, not only in their own light but in the significance of the illumination from many sources.

"Happily science is needed for its applications, and this fact silences the sceptic. If he desires to use some new discovery and convinces himself that it is a success, he must indeed admit that there is more there than an idle dream. Thus we perceive the blessing in the development of industry.

"I do not wish to say that science is made for its application, far from it; one must love it for its own sake; but the recognition of its uses protects us from the sceptic.

"And then too the enemies of science produce another argument: they observe that many discoveries are made by