Die mathematischen Grundlagen der Variations- und Vererbungslehre. Von P. RIEBESELL. Leipzig, B. G. Teubner, 1916. 45 pp.

THIS little book is volume 34 of the Mathematische Bibliothek, published under the editorship of Lietzmann and Witting. It is doubtless intended for the biological, rather than for the mathematical public, although its title might lead one to expect a somewhat more fundamental analysis of the larger mathematical questions which arise in modern biological research. The first 32 pages are devoted to an exposition of the elements of the theory of probabilities and of the problems connected with the determination of a function that will represent a given distribution of statistical data. To make the task of reading the book as easy as possible for the non-mathematical reader, the theory is followed step by step by numerical examples. In the last 9 pages there is found a discussion of some of the biological questions in which the mathematical problems play a rôle. Probably the greatest use that one may expect from a book like this would come if it should stimulate some mathematician to acquaint himself further with the mathematical problems that arise in biological theory or if it should lead a biologist to more extended mathematical studies. If two sciences are to cooperate effectively, there must be trained "agents de liaison," who will make possible a partial overlapping of the spheres of interest.

ARNOLD DRESDEN.

Methoden zur Lösung geometrischer Aufgaben. Von B. KERST. (Mathematische Bibliothek herausgegeben von W. Lietzmann und A. Witting, Band 26.) Leipzig, Teubner, 1916. 12mo. 2 + 47 pages. Paper, price M.0.80.

AMONG the scores of books, pamphlets and articles which have been written concerning methods of solving problems of elementary synthetic geometry, the work of the late Julius Petersen, the Dane, is easily the best by reason of its elegant exposition, comprehensiveness, and suggestiveness. The first edition was published in 1866;* but the enlarged second edition, of which English and German translations were published in the same year, 1879, is the one whose contents are most familiar.†

* Methoder og Theorier til Løsning af geometriske Konstruktionsopgaver, anvendte paa c. 300 Opgaver. Kjøbenhavn, 1866. 4 + 85 pp. + 1 pl.

† There have been at least 18 editions of this remarkable work: 6 in