

*Naturwissenschaften, Mathematik und Medizin im klassischen Altertum.*

By J. L. Heiberg. (Aus Natur und Geisteswelt, No. 370.) Leipzig and Berlin, B. G. Teubner, 1920. 104 pp.

*Mathematics and Physical Science in Classical Antiquity.* By J. L. Heiberg. Translated from the German by D. C. Macgregor. New York, Oxford University Press, American Branch, 1922. 110 pp.

This little volume from the well known series *Aus Natur und Geisteswelt* (No. 370) maintains the high standards set by the previous volumes of the series. The name of the distinguished author is sufficient guarantee that the contents is authoritative. It is also, however, of peculiar interest, in spite of its brevity and avowedly popular character. The readers of the Bulletin are doubtless all more or less familiar with the main features of ancient Greek mathematics; they are probably acquainted also with the principal results Greek astronomy and the physical speculations of the great philosophers of classical antiquity. It may be doubted, however, if many have ever read a connected account of scientific development as a whole during this period. The reviewer at any rate admits joyfully that much of the contents of this monograph (it is little more than that) was a revelation to him and a very interesting and illuminating one. This must be the justification, if any is needed, for giving space to such an elementary popular little book.

The chapter headings (taken from the English translation) are as follows: I. Ionian Natural Philosophy; II. The Pythagoreans; III. Medicine in the Fifth Century. Hippocrates; IV. Mathematics in the Fifth Century; V. Plato. The Academy; VI. Aristotle. The Lyceum; VII. The Alexandrians; VIII. The Epigoni; IX. The Romans; X. Greek Scientific Literature of the Empire. Byzantium. It will be noted that the arrangement is chronological rather than topical, so that the reader is given for each period a general view of scientific thought at that time. One of the omissions that seems a bit strange is the fact that no mention whatever is made of Lucretius in the chapter on the Romans or anywhere else for that matter.

The English translation is the second volume of the series *Chapters in the History of Science*, which is appearing under the general editorship of Professor Charles Singer. The translation is free rather than literal, and is throughout readable. The reviewer personally dislikes the word "researcher" which appears at frequent intervals, "goings-on" would sound more familiar to American ears than "on-goings" and the "propugnacula" of exact research are a little terrifying, but the original verdict stands: The translation is well done and may be recommended to any one who desires to spend a couple of hours in pleasant reading of interesting material.

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