

(*Mathematische Annalen*, volume 44), are the principal contributions to the theory of the twisted sextic; with the exception of the first, which deals with the classification of sextic curves in space, these all treat of the twisted sextic of deficiency one.

Of papers upon twisted curves of orders higher than six, Weyr's article in the sixty-ninth volume of the *Sitzungsberichte der math. natur. Klasse der Academie zu Wien* ("Ueber Raumcurven siebenter Ordnung"), is the only one in which a general treatment is found. Section 26 contains, altogether, twenty-two references.

Section 27 (special forms of twisted curves), containing 140 references, embraces the list of all articles, references to which could not find a fit place in the preceding sections.

To the observant student, such a bibliography as the one here briefly sketched, is interesting in many ways other than those at first apparent. It shows the trend of the different schools and their exoduses from one system or line of thought to another; the swarming of disciples after masters as the latter have changed the directions or methods or their researches; the fluctuating enthusiasm in progressive fields of investigation; the numerous accidental duplications of discoveries and demonstrations, especially between different schools and languages; and, most important of all, it lays bare the "rag ends" that the masters, grown tired of one field of investigation, have left convenient for the disciple to lay hold of and unravel. Finally, it is believed, that to know well that which has already been done best fits one to do that which is, as yet, undone.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

LINEAR DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS.

Handbuch der Theorie der linearen Differentialgleichungen. Von Professor Dr. LUDWIG SCHLESINGER, Privatdocenten an der Universität zu Berlin. In zwei Bänden. Erster Band. Leipzig, Teubner, 1895. 8vo, xx+486 pp.

The literature of the theory of linear differential equations has increased so rapidly during the last quarter of a century, and much of it has become of such importance that a detailed and methodical presentation of the subject such as is contained in the volume before us will be welcomed by large numbers of mathematicians and advanced students. While the author has attempted to make the