For completeness of statement, we note that the introduction to the second part is followed by a chapter of sixteen pages on complex numbers, containing De Moivre's theorem and the trigonometric solution of the binomial equation. There is also a chapter of six pages on elimination, with illustrations of Euler's and Sylvester's methods. The volume concludes with the methods of approximating to the real roots of numerical equations. Each theorem of the text, as far as possible, is immediately supplemented by problems showing its applications and place in the theory.

In conclusion, there are many admirable features in the work which would make it in some respects a valuable adjunct to instruction, and it is to be hoped that in a second edition a careful revision and the elimination of the rather numerous typographical errors will bring these qualities more clearly to light and place it in a position of considerable usefulness.

JAMES MACLAY.

The Theory and Practice of Interpolation : Including mechanical quadrature and other important problems concerned with the tabular values of functions. With the requisite tables. By HERBERT L. RICE, M.S. The Nichols Press, Lynn, Mass. 1899. Cr. 8vo., 234 + ix pp.

THE theory and practice of interpolation is, in its essentials, based on the fact that in nearly all functions which arise in physical problems, a small change of the variable produces a small change of the function. The simplest case is the one in which we may consider the ratio of the two small changes as constant : in the language of the subject, the first differences are constant. When this assumption will not give sufficiently accurate results, we have to consider the difference of the first differences or the *second* differences, and even differences of higher order. Ultimately we neglect differences of some definite order and thus implicitly reduce the problem to the consideration of the values of a function which, between certain limits and to a given degree of accuracy, may be considered rational, integral and algebraic. Round this problem a mass of literature has grown up. The values of a function are required for certain values of the variable. To obtain these every time from a formula may be troublesome, or even impossible if no such formula is known ; tables are therefore made giving the values of the function for certain values of the variable, and the subject teaches how we can thence