

The first three chapters are devoted to astronomy from the earliest times to the beginning of the sixteenth century. The author has confined his account almost entirely to the East, omitting the astronomy of the Egyptians, the Chaldeans and the Chinese, owing partly to the difficulty of obtaining first-hand information and partly to the unsettled state of the interpretations which Oriental scholars put on the records which have come down to us. We hope that this omitted portion may in the future be described by as able a hand. Whole chapters are devoted to Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, Galilei, and Kepler, showing how the subject was gradually emancipated from mere speculation and emerged into a science in which observations were collected and theories tested by means of them.

Of the discoveries of Newton and his immediate successors, Mr. Berry naturally gives a full account. From this time, the subject has been divided into two parts, gravitational and descriptive. The former may be said to consist almost entirely in the complete verification of the law of the inverse square coupled with the laws of motion. In later times, the latter has been subdivided into observational, physical, and descriptive astronomy, and the author finds it necessary to adopt these subdivisions for the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. A full chapter is devoted to Herschel as the first man to systematize observational astronomy. The description of the work of the last century is necessarily much condensed as a large number of partly isolated subjects have to be discussed; but, wherever possible, the main idea involved in every advance has been given.

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Die Mathematiker und Astronomen der Araber und ihre Werke.
(Abhandlungen zur Geschichte der mathematische Wissenschaften mit Einschluss ihrer Anwendungen. X Heft.)
Von HEINRICH SUTER. Leipzig, B. G. Teubner, 1900, ix + 278 pp.

A CATALOGUE of over five hundred names of mathematicians and astronomers does not give promise of much interest to a reader. But anyone who takes the trouble to dip into Dr. Suter's volume will be pleasantly disappointed if he merely expects to find a list of authors and writers with the titles of their works. To read through such a book is of course out of the question, even for a reviewer, and yet merely to put it on the shelf ready for a chance reference