

and encouraged the formation of schools. The best work was done during the next 375 years, and it was in that time that such additions as the Arabians were able to make to the subject were achieved. From 1275 on, the scientific men were chiefly employed in designing new kinds of astrolabes and quadrants and in the writing of text-books.

Interesting as Arabian science may be to the general historian it is not of very great importance to the mathematician. But the Arabians did a great service in keeping alive the works of their predecessors during a dark period in Europe. Many of the discoveries of the Greeks have been preserved in the numerous manuscripts which the Arabians left and which have escaped destruction. And not the least of their contributions was the introduction of our present number system which they obtained from India and used in preference to the cumbrous Greek and Roman methods. If for no other reason, they deserve to be remembered for this.

ERNEST W. BROWN.

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#### NOTES.

THE eighth summer meeting of the AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY will be held at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., beginning Monday, August 19, 1901. Members of the Society will thus be enabled to attend both the summer meeting and the meeting of the American association for the advancement of science which is held at Denver, Col., beginning August 24. In connection with the summer meeting of the Society, arrangements are being made for a colloquium. Professor E. W. BROWN has consented to give a course of six lectures on "Modern methods of dealing with the problems of dynamics and especially those of celestial mechanics, consisting mainly of the work of Poincaré in this direction." The precise title of these lectures will be announced later. A second course of lectures will also be arranged.

AT a meeting of the Cambridge philosophical society, held on November 26, 1900, the following mathematical papers were read: By Mr. T. J. F. A. BROMWICH: "Some theorems in regard to matrices."—By Mr. J. H. GRACE: "On the rational space curve of the fourth order."

THE Cracow academy of sciences, at its general meeting