

terrestrial magnetism when the earth is considered as a sphere and as a spheroid. The last two sections contain the numerical calculations. At the end are maps drawn from the numerical results for every 5° of latitude and every 10° of longitude. The agreement with observation is stated by the editor to be very satisfactory.

In conclusion, the reader will gather from the rough indications here given that the volume is not a mere compilation of incomplete fragments. Whatever he may think about the value of collections of published papers, and in particular of Volume I of Adams's works, it will be immediately apparent that Volume II is at least on the same footing as any other book containing original and previously unpublished scientific work, and its possession by scientific libraries will be as much a necessity as is that of the best known journals and treatises.

ERNEST W. BROWN.

NOTICE SUR M. HERMITE.

PAR M. C. JORDAN.

ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE MEETING OF THE PARIS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, JANUARY 21, 1901.

THE French school of mathematics loses in the person of M. Hermite its head and master.

It would be rash to undertake to analyze in haste and under the stress of keen emotion the long series of his works which have thrown so much lustre on the second half of the nineteenth century. Such an undertaking calls for more time and calmer feelings. Addressing then to our venerated confrère the last farewell, which his modesty forbade pronouncing at his grave, we limit ourselves here to pointing out, in broad lines and as far as memory permits, some of the discoveries which we owe to him.

In 1843, M. Hermite entered the Ecole Polytechnique at the age of twenty years. At the suggestion of Liouville, he wrote to Jacobi communicating the results which he had obtained relative to the division of abelian functions, then but little known. The illustrious German geometer, who was occupied at the time with the editing of his works, did not hesitate to give the letter of his young correspondent a place beside his own investigations. He wrote to him a little later: "Do not be troubled, Monsieur, if some of