

SOME RECENT BOOKS ON MECHANICS.*

Vorlesungen über technische Mechanik. Von AUGUST FÖPPL. 4 Bde., 8vo. Leipzig, B. G. Teubner. Bd. 1: *Einführung in die Mechanik*, 2te Aufl., 1900, xiv + 422 pp.; Bd. 2: *Graphische Statik*, 1900, x + 452 pp.; Bd. 3: *Festigkeitslehre*, 2te Aufl., 1900, xviii + 512 pp.; Bd. 4: *Dynamik*, 2te Aufl., 1901, xv + 506 pp.

Einführung in das Studium der theoretischen Physik, insbesondere in das der analytischen Mechanik, mit einer Einleitung in die Theorie der physikalischen Erkenntnis. Von P. VOLKMANN. Leipzig, B. G. Teubner, 1900. xvi + 370 pp.

Quelques Réflexions sur la Mécanique, suivies d'une première Leçon de Dynamique. Par EMILE PICARD. Paris, Gauthier-Villars et Fils, 1902. 56 pp.

FROM the standpoint of the teacher who has to face the problem of introducing students to the elements of mechanics both theoretical and practical, probably the most interesting and suggestive work which has appeared during the last few years, is that of Dr. August Föppl, professor at the school of technology (Technische Hochschule) at Munich. The books are especially noteworthy because Professor Föppl teaches those who are to be engineers — practical men — and yet at the same time insists on teaching in such a manner that his pupils shall acquire not the applications alone but a firm grasp of the general theoretical principles which underlie those applications. This method of instruction unfortunately may not appeal to some in this country who care only for what our engineers can do and not at all for what they may know. But certainly it is much better to teach the thought and theory in addition to the routine and practice, or in conjunction with it. In fact, as Professor Föppl points out, the engineer can not be thoroughly master of his work and capable of handling whatever new difficulties may arise unless he knows the why as well as the how.

What then is the sort of lectures that a thorough scientist finds feasible when addressing a class of engineering students at one of the leading German scientific schools? This question

* Continued from the June number of the BULLETIN.