its reappearance is valuable both because it corrects certain errors in Murr's transcription, and because it now becomes generally accessible.

Regiomontanus was the leader of his generation in astronomy and mathematics, and his correspondence with Bianchini, who was court astronomer to the Duke of Ferrara, Speier, who was court astrologer to the Prince of Urbino, and Roder, the professor of mathematics at the University of Erfurt, throws much light upon the practical astronomical work of the fifteenth century. The correspondence is in Latin and no translation is given.

Altogether, this number of the Abhandlungen is one of the most valuable that have appeared, and the tendency to publish the sources for the history of mathematics is one that will meet the hearty commendation of scholars.

DAVID EUGENE SMITH.

Gauss' wissenschaftliches Tagebuch, 1796–1814. Mit Anmerkungen herausgegeben von FELIX KLEIN. Reprinted from the *Festschrift zur Feier des hundertfünfzigjährigen Bestehens der Königlichen Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen*. Berlin, Weidmannsche Buchhandlung, 1901, 8vo., 44 pp.

As a youth not quite nineteen years old Gauss began jotting down in a copy-book memoranda, always, unfortunately, of the very briefest sort, of the great mathematical discoveries he was making. The entries in this Scientific Diary (*Catalogus*, Gauss calls it) are in Latin, and begin with a statement dated March 30, 1796, to the effect that Gauss had found a construction for the regular polygon of seventeen sides. From this date the entries follow each other in rapid succession, there being no less than 112 in the next four years and a quarter. From here on they become more irregular, and there are only 34 entries during the following fourteen years. Such a diary as this, written by any great mathematician, would be of the greatest interest, as illustrating, even with all its gaps and obscurities, the order in which the mathematical ideas developed in his mind and the form they first took; but there is probably no mathematician in whose case it could be even approximately as valuable as in the case of Gauss. For it is well known that ideas, many of them of the first importance, poured in on Gauss's mind in his early youth in such numbers that, as he himself