problem is Plato, and the assertion that Joost Bürgi first used a decimal point is altogether too emphatic. In connection with the cubic equation, Cardan's formula is referred to his Practica arithmeticæ generalis (1537) instead of the Ars magna (1545), an error due to misreading Cantor. Furthermore, not only are the historical references very meager, but they are confined almost exclusively to the German, and even then too exclusively to Cantor. For example, a work that pretends to be at all international might be expected to mention Heath's Diophantos in connection with a note upon the editions of this writer's works, though why these editions should be given at all in a work so barren of more important references, is a question.

A treatise of this kind might also be expected to furnish a good working bibliography, in no sense exhaustive, but suggestive and helpful. The bibliographical notes which Professor Weber has inserted are, however, with slight exception, of no practical value, and are evidently selected with no well defined purpose.

With all due appreciation of the scholarship of the work, and of its helpfulness, it must therefore be a matter of regret to all who have looked forward to its appearance, that the ground covered is not that of elementary mathematics in an international sense, that the historical notes are very ill considered, that no attempt has been made to offer a helpful bibliography, and that the arrangement and general treatment are so far removed from that of the Repertorium or the Burkhardt-Meyer Encyklopädie.   DAVID EUGENE SMITH.

SHORTER NOTICES.

Mathematical Papers of the late George Green. Edited by N. M. FERRERS and published by Macmillan in 1871. Facsimile reprint. Paris, A. Hermann, 1903.

GREEN'S celebrated paper on potential, published at Nottingham in 1828 by private subscription, remained practically unknown for many years. At this period George Green was entirely self-taught and had no more advantages than a provincial town with but few mathematical works of any kind was likely to furnish. He was, however, " discovered " and sent to Cambridge in 1833, taking his degree in 1837 and his fellow-