SHORTER NOTICES.

*Carl Gustav Jacob Jacobi. Festschrift zur Feier der hundert-
sten Wiederkehr seines Geburtstages.* Mit einem Bildnis und
dem Faksimile eines Briefes. By LEO KÖNIGSBERGER.
Leipzig, B. G. Teubner, 1904.   8vo.   xvii + 554 pp.

IT is a pleasure as well as a duty for posterity to honor and
keep green the memory of those great men of science whose
discoveries have contributed to human happiness or whose pro-
found meditations have opened up new and fruitful lines of re-
search.   To the latter class belongs Jacobi, the hundredth
anniversary of whose birthday fell on December 10, 1904.
The third International congress of mathematicians, held that
year, determined to celebrate this event with due solemnity and
Professor Königsberger was asked to prepare a commemorative
address.   No better choice of speaker could be made; for Pro-
fessor Königsberger besides having published a noteworthy
history of the elliptic functions for the years 1826–29 has
contributed numerous important papers on the abelian trans-
cendants, on differential equations and on principles of me-
chanics, all subjects which occupied Jacobi's unceasing attention.

The exceptional position that Jacobi occupies in the history of
German mathematics makes the story of his life doubly inter-
esting.   At the time when he began his career the condition of
mathematics in Germany was truly deplorable.   The whole
mathematical genius of the Teutonic people seems to have been
absorbed by a single individual, Gauss, leaving a mere pittance
to be thinly distributed among his contemporaries.   Moreover
the cold and reserved nature of Gauss, his uncommunicative if
not secretive disposition, his unvarying practice of publishing
nothing that was not perfect in form and complete in content,
all contributed most unhappily in reducing to a minumum the
mighty influence he should have exerted on his countrymen
during the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

With the advent of Jacobi a new era began ; a new genera-
ation of mathematicians sprang up with a suddenness and bril-
liancy which is astounding.   Jacobi was presently joined by
Steiner, Dirichlet, Plücker and others, and Germany began the
triumphal march which soon led her to the first rank in the
world of mathematics.

The most prominent figure in this new generation is Jacobi.