educational value provided the pupil has not become so saturated with intuitional ideas derived from the first part that he cannot rid himself of them. It seems to me that in the hands of a skillful teacher the book would prove of value, although the only test is that of actual use. A school text in geometry which succeeds in making a direct and natural transition from the traditional programme to such books as von Staudt's and as Enriques's will be a welcome addition to our mathematical literature.

VIRGIL SNYDER.

Zwölf Vorlesungen über die Natur des Lichtes. Von J. Classen. Leipzig, G. J. Göschen, 1905. x + 249 pp.

The author has already published through Göschen in the Sammlung Schubert three volumes on electricity, magnetism, and light which appeal to a technical public of mathematicians and physicists. The present volume, which is not in the Sammlung Schubert, is of a wholly different character. It is the reprint of a series of lectures given before a lay public and consequently freed of all technicalities whether mathematical or physical. The aim of the book is to set forth and discuss those simple experiments which begin with showing the rectilinear propagation of light and advance systematically and logically to the end of demonstrating the electromagnetic nature of light. range of phenomena is treated, including even the latest researches, such as those of Rubens, which put the electromagnetic theory upon a seemingly sure footing. A mathematical treatment of the subject built up in the same straightforward and logical manner would be highly useful, and better worth our attention here.

E. B. Wilson.

## NOTES.

THE ninth regular meeting of the San Francisco Section of the American Mathematical Society will be held at Stanford University on Saturday, February 24. Abstracts of papers intended for presentation should be in the hands of the Secretary of the Section, Professor G. A. Miller, Stanford University, as early as February 10.