

The next regular meeting of the Association will be held at the University of Minnesota under the presidency of Professor A. A. Michelson, of the University of Chicago. Professor E. H. Moore, of the University of Chicago, was elected vice-president and chairman of Section A; Professor G. A. Miller, of the University of Illinois, continues as secretary. Professor E. R. Smith, of the Brooklyn Polytechnic Preparatory School, was elected member of the sectional committee for five years.

G. A. MILLER,  
*Secretary of Section A.*

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### SHORTER NOTICES.

*Rara Arithmetica.* By DAVID EUGENE SMITH, Teachers College, Columbia University. Second edition. Boston, Ginn and Company, 1909. xviii + 507 pp. Cloth. Price, \$4.50.

THE title page of this splendid volume modestly states that "the work is a catalogue of the arithmetics written before the year 1601 with a description of those in the library of George Arthur Plimpton of New York." Another appropriate title might be, A brief history, on the bibliographical plan, of the genesis and content of sixteenth century arithmetic.

As a bibliography this work is more extensive than any of its predecessors, and is nearly complete for the formative period between 1472 and 1601. There are mentioned over five hundred and fifty different works, which number swells nearly to twelve hundred by the inclusion of the various editions. About four hundred and fifty of the different books are genuine arithmetics, while the others deal partially with algebra, astrology, or the calendar. In determining the significance of this number one thinks at once of De Morgan's *Arithmetical Books*, the best of the earlier authorities on the subject, and recalls that this work gives only seventy arithmetics printed before 1600. The list in Professor Smith's *Rara Arithmetica* is much more extensive than those of Graesse, Hain, and Copping, and contains more Italian titles than are given by Riccardi in his *Bibliotheca Mathematica Italiana* and more German ones than are included by Murhard in his *Bibliotheca Mathematica*.

But this work is more than a scholarly, well edited digest of all the earlier bibliographies; it is the result of the examination