

by series to the Legendre, Bessel, and hypergeometric equations will be useful to the student.

The last of the important *Zusätze* (see pages 637–663) is devoted to an exposition of the theory of systems of simultaneous differential equations of the first order.

Having thus passed in quick review the contents of the book, it is now apparent that the translator has certainly accomplished his purpose of making it more useful to the student of pure mathematics. There remains the question whether there are not other additions which would have been desirable in accomplishing this purpose. There is at least one which, in the reviewer's opinion, should have been inserted.

In connection with the theory of formal integration by series it would have been easy to insert a proof of the convergence in general of the series for the case of second order equations; and one can but regret that this was not done. Such a treatment would have required only a half-dozen pages; and it would have added greatly to the value of this already valuable section. The translator's reason for omitting it is obvious; he was making no use of function-theoretic considerations, and such a proof would have required the introduction of these notions. But the great value to the student of having at hand this proof, for the relatively simple case of second order equations, seems to be more than a justification for departing in this case from the general plan of the book; it seems indeed to be a demand for it.

On the whole the translator has rendered a distinct service to beginners in the modern theory of differential equations. The *Zusätze* which he has inserted in this volume have to do with well-selected topics and the treatment is for the most part very satisfactory. The careful arrangement of material and the numerous and convenient cross-references given throughout the *Zusätze* and the *Auflösungen* are especially to be commended as contributing to the reader's comfort. The usefulness of such mechanical conveniences is often overlooked by authors.

R. D. CARMICHAEL.

*Calcul des Probabilités.* Par H. POINCARÉ. Rédaction de A. QUIQUET. Deuxième édition, revue et augmentée. Paris, Gauthier-Villars, 1912. 335 pp.

THE first edition of Poincaré's *Calcul des Probabilités* was published in 1896; thus it has been before the public for sixteen