But this selection from examples must suffice to illustrate the criticisms made above with regard to errors and careless presentation.

As to additions, I suggest two or three, at random, in connection with things geometrical.

Why not give a reference for Hamilton's "letter to De Morgan (1852)" with regard to the construction of the regular polygon of 17 sides?* And would not the reproduction of Gauss's original announcement of the discovery of the possibility of construction of such a polygon, with ruler and compass,† be worth while?

Why leave out Prior's

> "Circles to square, and cubes to double,
> Would give a man excessive trouble;"‡

And finally, might not the plan of the work permit the inclusion of the verses of the British Museum MS. which shows that Euclid was studied in England as far back as 924–940 A. D.?

> The clerk Euclyde on this wyse hit fonde
> Thys craft of gemetry yn Egypte londe
> Yn Egypte he tawghte hut ful wyde,
> Yn dyvers londe on every syde.
> Mony erys afterwarde y vnderstonde
> Gher that the craft com ynto thys londe.
> Thys craft com ynto England, as y ghow say,
> Yn tyme of good kyng Adelston's day.§

R. C. ARCHIBALD.

BROWN UNIVERSITY,
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

SHORTER NOTICES.

The Development of Arabic Numerals in Europe. By G. F. HILL. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1915. 125 pp. Price 7 shillings 6 pence.

IT is a commonplace remark that noteworthy achievements in this world often have their inception in the most trivial incidents, and this semiparadoxical law is well illustrated in the work under review. Mr. Hill is the curator of the depart-

* Graves's Life of Sir Wm. R. Hamilton, vol. 3 (1889), pp. 433–435.

† *Intelligenzblatt der allgem. Literatur-Zeitung*, Nr. 66, 1 Junius, 1796, col. 554.

‡ In Alma, canto 3, lines 366–7, published in 1717. Or in Poetical Works of Matthew Prior in 2 volumes, London, 1779, vol. 1, p. 404.

§ J. O. Halliwell, Rara Mathematica, second ed., London, 1841, p. 56.