COLLEGE ALGEBRAS.

College Algebra. By E. B. SKINNER. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1918. vi + 263 pp.

Advanced Algebra. By W. C. BRENKE. New York, The Century Company, 1917. vii + 196 pp.

A First Course in Higher Algebra. By HELEN A. MERRILL and CLARA E. SMITH. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1917. xiv + 247 pp.

RECENT textbooks written for the ordinary algebra course in college are apt to be scrutinized with other questions in mind beside the usual inquiries as to whether the traditional subject matter has been well presented and whether the problems have been so wisely selected and graded that they will be of actual assistance to the student in mastering the principles involved. For example: 1. Does the content or the manner of presentation show any modification due to the effects of those attacks upon mathematics as a required study which gave such a sharp challenge to the algebra of the high schools a few years ago? 2. Are the subjects which have been stressed in this text the topics which are usually selected for those "combination courses" in freshman mathematics which include algebra? 3. Has the desire of scientists to push back the elementary calculus into the earlier years of the college course had any effect upon this text?

In attempting to answer some of these questions regarding the three texts listed above, it has seemed advisable not to try to consider each separately, but rather to compare them. They will, of course, have much in common, but they may have enough differences to make such a comparison interesting. It is worth noting that the writers represent different types of institutions situated in different parts of the country. The authors of the first two books are professors in state universities (Wisconsin and Nebraska), while the authors of the third are in a New England college (Wellesley).

As the preface usually reveals the author's point of view, it may be well to quote here certain selected portions that seem to have especial bearing upon the questions in mind.

Professor Skinner says: "The shortening of the time given