

SHORTER NOTICES

Hydrodynamics. By Horace Lamb. Fifth edition. Cambridge, University Press, 1924. xvi + 687 pp.

This work reached its fifth edition in the forty-fifth year after its original publication in 1879, the successive editions having appeared at intervals of sixteen, eleven, ten, and eight years. In passing from the first edition to the second it was largely remodeled and extended, but since then there has been no change in general plan and arrangement. As it now appears it has again been carefully revised, several passages having been rewritten and some considerable additions having been made. It has, however, not undergone extensive enlargement. In his preface the author observes that "the work has less pretensions than ever to be regarded as a complete account of the science with which it deals," owing partly to the difficulty of doing justice to the growing literature. He adds: "Some memoirs deal chiefly with questions of mathematical method and so fall outside the scope of this book; others though physically important hardly admit of a condensed analysis; others, again, owing to the multiplicity of publications, may unfortunately have been overlooked. And there is, I am afraid, the inevitable personal equation of the author, which leads him to take a greater interest in some branches of the subject than in others." Though the book is extensive and important it is clear from these remarks that there are important aspects of the subject which it does not adequately treat — a fact which is stated without any implication of criticism, since it did not fall within the author's purpose to treat them and since the book probably serves better a large majority of its readers on account of the omission of certain subjects and the consequent fuller treatment of others.

The principal single increase in the scope of this work occurred in passing from the first to the second edition. The interpolations and additions incorporated in the third edition amounted to about one-fifth of the whole and thus required a renumbering of the sections. There was considerable increase in size in the fourth edition even though a few investigations of secondary interest were condensed or omitted. There are no omissions of consequence in passing from the fourth edition to the fifth; and there are several additions. Of the latter some are of the nature of interpolations (mostly short) inserted in the sections which are reproduced from the earlier edition, while the others treat new topics in the form of additional articles of which there are fourteen scattered through the volume. Throughout the whole work there