The classical discussions of cubic curves in such texts as Salmon, Clebsch-Lindemann, Durege, and Schroeter, were excellent in their time, but have now become somewhat antiquated. In none of them do we find so wise a selection of material nor so balanced an emphasis on the various topics, as in this brief yet comprehensive and readable text.

C. H. SISAM

REYMOND'S HISTORY OF SCIENCE

Histoire des Sciences Exactes et Naturelles dans l'Antiquité Gréco-Romaine, by Arnold Reymond. Paris, Librairie Scientifique Albert Blanchard, 1924. vii+238 pp.

The Preface of this book is from the pen of Léon Brunschvicg, and is followed by an Introduction giving an outline of Babylonian and Egyptian science. The first three chapters are an historical survey of Greek and Roman science. The last six chapters deal with principles and methods in mathematics, astronomy, mechanics, chemistry, natural history, and medicine, as developed in Greece and Rome. In various places, there is pointed out to the reader the connection of ancient conceptions in science with those of later periods.

The work under review is not an independent research based upon the study of original sources, but a compilation from European publicatons. Of assistance to the studious reader are the six pages given to bibliography. Our assurance that all important publications are included in the list is shaken somewhat by the omission of all reference to G. Eneström and his BIBLIOTHECA MATHEMATICA. In the case of the Moscow papyrus, the author overlooked the all-important early Egyptian computation of the volume of the frustrum of a quadrangular pyramid.* Except for a reference to an article of J. H. Breasted that was published in Europe, American scholarship is ignored completely. For a general view point of Babylonian and Egyptian mathematics, a reference to L. C. Karpinski† would have been of value. R. C. Archibald's reconstruction of Euclid's *Divisions of Figures*‡ escaped the attention of the author, as did also D. E. Smith's choice article§ on Greek computation. American publications would have afforded the author a profounder realization of the importance in the history of the theory of limits of Greek discussion of "Indivisibles" and of Zeno's arguments on motion.|| Of interest would have been the British defence of Aristotle's treatment of falling bodies, to the effect that Aristotle dealt with terminal velocities of a body falling through a resisting medium,¶ and a

* ANCIENT EGYPT, vol. 17, p. 100.

† AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL MONTHLY, vol. 24 (1917), pp. 257–265.

‡ R. C. Archibald, *Euclid's Book on Divisions of Figures*, 1915.

§ D. E. Smith, BIBLIOTHECA MATHEMATICA, (3), vol. 9 (1908–09), pp. 193–195.

|| F. Cajori, AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL MONTHLY, vol. 22 (1915), pp. 1, 39, 77, 109, 143, 179, 215, 253, 292.

¶ NATURE, vol. 92 (1914), pp. 584, 585, 606.