

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Enciclopedia delle matematiche elementari e complementi con estensione alle principali teorie analitiche, geometriche e fisiche. Loro applicazione e notizie storico-bibliografiche.* Vol. 3. Ed. by Luigi Berzolari. Milan, Hoepli. Part 1, 1947, xii+966 pp. 2600 lire; part 2, 1950, xx+1040 pp. 3800 lire.

The first Encyclopedia of Elementary Mathematics was the popular three-volume work of H. M. Weber (1842–1913) and J. Wellstein (1869–1919), *Encyklopädie der Elementar-Mathematik*, first published in 1903–1907; it went through several editions.

Already in a 1909 session of the Society Mathesis there were advocates for the preparation and publication of an Italian Encyclopedia of Mathematics, but it was nearly a score of years later before the project actually took tangible form. One may, however, regard as a sort of preliminary presentation of Encyclopedia topics the remarkably successful work edited by F. Enriques (1871–1946), *Questioni riguardanti le matematiche elementari*, in two large volumes, 1912–1914. The volumes, in which numerous specialists wrote on the various topics, were appreciably enlarged in the third edition, a dozen years later.

But finally, in 1930, under the editorship of Luigi Berzolari (1863–1949), Giulio Vivanti (1859–1949), and Duilio Gigli (1878–1933), appeared the first part of the first volume of *Enciclopedia delle matematiche elementari*; the second part was published in 1932, both parts (each with its own author index) making a volume of nearly 1100 pages. This volume, devoted to arithmetic, computation, algebra, and analysis, by 9 authors, was the only one of the *Enciclopedia* previously reviewed in this Bulletin (vol. 38 (1932) pp. 156–157). The general editorial plan of this volume was also carried out in the second. Only the more fundamental theorems were proved, but there is a constant wealth of bibliographic references where further information may be gleaned.

The second volume, in two parts, 1937–1938, of over 1200 pages and by 16 authors, was devoted to topics in geometry. Gigli had then died and it was the last one in which Vivanti appeared as joint editor.

Of the third volume, 1947–1950, Berzolari was the sole editor, but he died before the final printing of the great second part of the volume was published. In this part is a brief biographical sketch of the editor and the frontispiece is his portrait. The volume is dedicated to varied