

NOTES.

AT the meeting of the Cambridge Philosophical Society held on October 31, 1898, papers were presented by Mr. H. F. BAKER, "On Mittag-Leffler's theorem;" by Mr. A. BERRY, "On the evaluation of a certain determinant which occurs in the theories of statistics and of elliptic space;" by Mr. J. H. GRACE, "On metrical relations between linear complexes;" by Mr. A. E. WESTERN, "On certain systems of quadratic complex numbers."

THE Mathematical Society of Edinburgh held its annual meeting on November 11, 1898, and elected the following officers for the current session: President, Dr. ALEXANDER MORGAN; Vice-president, Mr. R. F. MUIRHEAD; Honorary secretary, Mr. J. W. BUTTERS; Honorary treasurer, Mr. F. SPENCE; Editors, Mr. JOHN DOUGALL, Mr. CHARLES TWEE-DIE, Dr. C. G. KNOTT; Committee, Messrs. J. D. H. DICKSON, GEORGE DUTHIE, A. LINDSAY. At this meeting papers on "Systems of circles analogous to Tucker's circles," by Mr. J. A. THIRD, and on "The geometrical theory of the hyperbolic functions," by Mr. W. L. THOMSON, were read. On the motion of Professor G. A. GIBSON, a committee was appointed to consider the treatment of proportion in elementary mathematics.

THE Trustees of the British Museum have recently issued a fac-simile, consisting of twenty-one plates, of the celebrated Rhind mathematical papyrus, prefaced by an introduction by Dr. E. A. WALLIS BUDGE, keeper of the Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities. This papyrus has been the object of considerable discussion on the part of mathematicians and Egyptologists ever since the late Dr. Samuel Birch published an account of its contents in the *Zeitschrift für Ägyptische Sprache* in 1868, and a large body of students in each field will be grateful for the possession of the actual text. The text is written throughout in hieratic, but its actual date is not quite certain. Dr. BUDGE assigns it to a period not earlier than the beginning of the eighteenth dynasty, about 1700 B. C., but adds that the text goes back to a more remote period. It was probably a copy of a papyrus written in the Hyksos period, about 2000 B. C., by a scribe Aāh-mes, who stated that he himself copied an original work of the time of Amen-em-hāt III., a king of the twelfth dynasty, about 2300 B. C. The number of *Nature* for November 24, 1898, contains a sketch of the contents of the papyrus.