

## SHORTER NOTICES.

*Guida allo Studio della Storia delle Matematiche.* By GINO LORIA. Milano, Hoepli, 1916. Pp. xvi + 228. Price 3 lire.

No one can pick up such little volumes as those of the Sammlung Götschen, Sammlung Schubert, Teubner's Aus Natur und Geisteswelt and Mathematische Bibliothek, and the Manuali Hoepli without a feeling somewhat akin to envy. That economic conditions are, or at least have been until now, such as to allow the sale of many of these works for a few cents abroad, while in this country it is practically impossible to publish similar manuals, always seems unfortunate from the standpoint of scholarship, even if excusable from that of labor. So when we see a book like Professor Loria's selling for less than sixty cents, we must all feel regret that it can be accessible only to students who are familiar with the Italian language.

It is now nearly nine years since Professor Loria expressed, at the fourth International Congress of Mathematicians, his belief in the advisability of placing before students a guide for their study of the history of mathematics. His well-known interest in the subject, his contributions to its literature, his courses in the University of Genoa, and his editorial experience, all have tended to fit him for writing such a work, and he is entitled to the thanks of all mathematicians for the care he has shown in its preparation.

The "Guida" is divided into two parts, the first relating to the preparation for research, and the second to aids in research itself. Under the former title are considered the questions of historic method in general, of the bibliography of the history of mathematics, and of the material to be found in periodical literature. In the second part Professor Loria considers the material to be found outside the general histories, not only that which may be characterized under the head of guides to original sources, such as works on the reading of manuscripts, but such bibliographical and biographical works as bear upon the subject in hand. The topics include Greek, Roman, and Oriental biography and bibliography; biography of modern mathematicians in various countries; collections of