

of *Varieties to Depart Indefinitely from the Original Type*, which led to the publication of Darwin's preliminary essay in 1858? However, the matter of selection is always a difficult one and largely dependent upon individual judgments.

The value of the book, in the opinion of the reviewer, would have been greatly enhanced by incorporating with each extract a paragraph* indicating various other publications, if such exist, where the writing from which the extract was taken (or the original text in case of a translation) may be found. To quote an extract as "From *The Works of Archimedes*, edited by Sir Thomas Heath," with no mention of publishers or date or place of publication or reference as to where the original Greek text may be found, and no listing of cross-references to other publications containing the same writing, offers little help and encouragement to one who may be interested in investigating the subject more fully.

U. G. MITCHELL

Les Nouveaux Axiomes de l'Electronique. By R. Ferrier. Paris, A. Blanchard, 1925. 61 pp.

This is an attempt to modify the laws of electrodynamics to fit the quantum theory of Bohr. The author considers two point charges and puts the energy of the system equal to the quotient of a function of the relative velocity by the distance between the charges. This leads to a fundamental dynamical frequency proportional to the energy instead of proportional to the three-halves power of the energy as in the classical dynamics. While the potential energy on the classical theory is inversely proportional to the distance between charges, it is difficult to see how any theory which hoped to obtain macroscopic results at all comparable with experiment can proceed from an expression for the total energy of the form used in this monograph.

LEIGH PAGE

The Quantum Theory. By N. M. Bligh. New York, Longmans, Green & Co., 1926. 112 pp. \$3.00.

Beginning with the general problem of radiation, the author has given a very brief sketch of the development of the quantum theory leading to Planck's formula. He next introduces the light-quantum hypothesis and its application to the photo-electric effect. The subject of atomic heats is briefly considered, and finally Bohr's theory of spectra and atomic constitution is outlined. The treatment throughout is too little critical and too superficial to be of much value, but it may serve a useful purpose as an outline, with references to the original sources, of the older form of the quantum theory.

E. P. ADAMS

* Such, for example, as the excellent bibliographical paragraphs in William MacDonald's *Select Documents Illustrative of American History*, New York, The Macmillan Company, 1924.