

four words of biographical information, but in so doing he comes to grief. Mannheim was not "a German army officer." As a young man he was a French army officer, and for about half a century he was professor in the Polytechnic School in Paris.

FLORIAN CAJORI.

*Annuaire du Bureau des Longitudes pour l'An 1910*, Paris. Gauthier-Villars.

THIS handy little volume makes its annual appearance as usual in good time. So far as we know there is nothing approaching to it in completeness for giving the astronomical, physical, electrical, meteorological, magnetic, and chemical constants. And what is of even more importance, everything is easy to find and the matter is constantly kept up to date. For the construction of problems in which one wishes to insert numerical data, the hunting in various books can be avoided and much time saved by having the *Annuaire* at hand. Two consecutive volumes give everything likely to be needed.

The principal appendix this year is an article on earth tides and the elasticity of the globe by M. Ch. Lallemand. A full historical survey of our knowledge up to the present time forms one of its most useful features. M. B. Baillaud tells of the work done at the last international conference on the photographic chart of the sky, and M. G. Bigourdan appends a list of all the Notices which have appeared in the *Annuaire* since its foundation in 1796.

ERNEST W. BROWN.

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#### NOTES ON THE INSTITUT DE FRANCE AND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ACADEMIE DES SCIENCES.

IT is not generally known in America that the Institut de France is made up of five distinct bodies, known as the Académie Française, the Académie des Sciences, the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques and the Académie des Beaux-Arts. Each of these academies has 40 members, with the exception of the Académie des Sciences which — in addition to its two permanent secretaries, one in each of the departments, physics and