

Gaston Darboux. Biographie, Bibliographie analytique des Ecrits. Par ERNEST LEBON. Paris, Gauthier-Villars, 1910. viii + 72 pp.

THIS is the second volume of the series *Savants du Jour*, which M. Lebon is bringing out. It is as regards content and arrangement similar to its predecessor, which was devoted to the life and work of Poincaré.* It begins with a short biography of Darboux (7 pages). A few extracts may be of interest to the readers of the *BULLETIN*. Darboux was born at Nîmes, August 13, 1842, the elder of two sons of a grocer. His father died in 1849. But his mother, noting the intellectual gifts of her two sons, provided for their education. In 1861 the youthful Gaston was awarded the rare distinction of being admitted as the first among all candidates both to the *Ecole Polytechnique* and to the *Ecole Normale*. He chose the latter. He received his doctor's degree from the University of Paris in 1866. After several years spent in secondary teaching, during which period he published several important papers, he became in 1872 "maitre de conférences" in the *Ecole Normale*. In 1875, at the age of 32 years, he was awarded the *Prix Poncelet* by the French Academy for the ensemble of his mathematical work. Since 1880 he has occupied the chair of geometry at the Sorbonne, being the successor in this chair of Chasles. He was elected a member of the Academy of Sciences in 1884, and made a permanent secretary of this body in 1900. He is a member of 21 academies and of 11 scientific societies, and is an honorary doctor of the Universities of Cambridge, Christiania, and Heidelberg.

The remainder of the little volume is devoted to an appreciation of the scientific work of Darboux taken from various sources, and a complete list of his writings. The latter numbers 419 titles, many of which are accompanied by brief abstracts. The amount and quality of such productivity is at once the inspiration and the despair of his would-be disciples. The volume also contains a fine portrait of Darboux.

J. W. YOUNG.

Handbuch des mathematischen Unterrichts. Von W. KILLING und H. HOVESTADT. Band I. Teubner, Leipzig und Berlin, 1910. viii + 442 pp.

NOTWITHSTANDING the great number of handbooks on mathematical instruction the authors justify the present work by the

* Cf. review in the present volume of the *BULLETIN*, p. 42.