

*Grundriss der Naturphilosophie.* Von W. OSTWALD. Leipzig, Philipp Reclam, jun., 1908. 195 pp.

RECLAM'S Universal-Bibliothek is widely known as a good place to look for almost anything from Bret Harte to Kant with tolerable assurance of finding it attractively put up in small volumes at small prices. Probably somewhere between the rather wide limits just assigned would be placed Ostwald's *Grundriss der Naturphilosophie*; how to place it in much narrower limits is a question; it probably would hardly have appealed to Kant as philosophy or to Bret Harte as nature. There are four parts, general epistemology, logic with the theory of aggregates and mathematics, the physical sciences, and the biological sciences. The point of view throughout is that of the physicist or chemist; the philosophy is not refined, nor the mathematics logical. It is probably precisely these characteristics that will make the book readable and interesting and instructive to the general public. Any admirer of pragmatism will find much here to delight him. To any one not trained in philosophical or mathematical or scientific thinking but desirous of awakening his ideas toward science and philosophy the book is heartily to be recommended as introductory reading.

E. B. WILSON.

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#### NOTES.

The opening (January) number of volume 12 of the *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society* contains the following papers: "An invariantive investigation of irreducible binary modular forms," by L. E. DICKSON; "An application of symbolic methods to the treatment of mean curvatures in hyperspace," by W. H. BATES; "On the order of linear homogeneous groups (fourth paper)," by H. F. BLICHFELDT; "The metrical aspect of the line-sphere transformation," by J. L. COOLIDGE; "Natural systems of trajectories generating families of Lamé," by EDWARD KASNER; "A fundamental system of invariants of the general modular linear group with a solution of the form problem," by L. E. DICKSON; "Linear difference equations and their analytic solutions," by R. D. CARMICHAEL.