Teubner deserves great credit for issuing the small library of science texts under Professor Jahnke's able editorship. It is believed that a similar undertaking in this country would be of decided benefit to our colleges and high schools, where often the lack of proper information is likely to turn valuable men from the realm of science. A glance at the list of authors of the Jahnke-Teubner series will show that in Germany the professor of the gymnasium is considered as preeminently fitted for this kind of work, since his daily contact with the student who has not yet specialized in a given field makes him for these intermediate texts a most excellent interpreter.

KURT LAVES.

Mécanique sociale. By SP. C. HARET. Paris and Bucharest, Gauthier-Villars, 1910. 256 pp.

THIS book, which presents rather entertaining reading to the student of mechanics tries to describe in mathematical language the phenomena of sociology. The social body—an assemblage of individuals, who act on each other and are subject besides to exterior forces of intellectual, economical and moral character—is considered for simplicity to be of invariable form, for a given length of time. Each individual is characterized by three rectangular coordinates, of which x stands to show the economic, y the intellectual, z the moral asset of the individual. On this basis it is not difficult to write out the differential equations of motion in this "social space." The author does not feel any hesitation in transcribing into this social space the axioms and theorems of rational mechanics, but it need not be pointed out to a mathematical audience, that the difficulties here encountered are enormous. The material in the hands of the sociologist today is hardly in such a shape that the mathematician may properly step in with such an ambitious-looking set of differential equations as our author does, and deduce from them statements which have a meaning only in the realm of physics, as far at least as we know at present.

KURT LAVES.