has probably taken a grip upon pure mathematicians to a considerable extent since it was mathematically formulated by Poincaré and Minkowski. It would be particularly interesting to know *just* what this principle is. Many a person seems to have a general idea as to what it is, and the general ideas seem in a general way to be very much the same; but it is doubtful if these various persons agree in the details of their ideas on the subject. For instance, if we understand correctly the point of view of Poincaré, it is an essential element of the principle of relativity that the transformations of Lorentz form a group; whereas we find Abraham stating that Cohn's theory also satisfies the principle of relativity, and Cohn's transformations do not form a group. From Lorentz's point of view of motion relative to an ether, the principal of relativity appears as a physical theorem; for some more recent writers it appears to be a metaphysical principle or at least a psychological theorem. The whole matter needs an exhaustive analysis. In his closing remarks Abraham seems to suggest that a different procedure be employed according as electrons or ponderable bodies are considered. This might avoid some difficulties at present but is not finally satisfactory from a scientific point of view.

E. B. WILSON.

CORRECTION.

IN Dr. W. B. Carver's paper on "Degenerate pencils of quadrics" in the BULLETIN for July, 1909, the first sentence of the third paragraph on page 486 should read: Proper configurations exist for types 1, 2, and 4, and do not exist for types 3 and 5.