

to advantage in bringing a course in trigonometry in closer touch with one of its main applications.

T. H. GRONWALL.

Relativity. By A. W. CONWAY. Edinburgh Mathematical Tracts, number 3. London, G. Bell and Sons, 1915. 2 s. 43 pp.

THIS tract is a course of four lectures delivered before the Edinburgh Mathematical Colloquium on the subject of relativity. The audience were representative of various branches of science. These four lectures start with fundamentals, followed by a study of the transformation of the electromagnetic equations, applications to radiation and electron theory, and Minkowski's transformation. The lecturer has succeeded very well in presenting the essentials of the relativity hypothesis free from metaphysics, and speculations of any kind. He has a decidedly sane treatment. There are examples enough to make the ideas clear, stated in everyday terms, and not in terms of the usual mathematical model. It is a serviceable introduction.

JAMES BYRNIE SHAW.

A Theory of Time and Space. By ALFRED A. ROBB. Cambridge, University Press, 1914. vi + 373 pp.

THIS treatise is an elaboration of a previous publication on the same subject. In brief it is an analysis of space and time relations by means of a single type of order called conical. The author also calls the result optical geometry. The treatment is of an axiomatic character, the few diagrams serving only as schemes. There are twenty-one postulates set down, and from these and various definitions, some two hundred and six theorems are deduced. These ultimately lead to statements which permit an algebraic formulation by the use of four parameters, which may be interpreted as the usual x , y , z , and t , the last having a somewhat different rôle from the others. The notion of relativity of course hovers in the background, but any one seeking light on that notion here will be disappointed, as the book is simply a development of a very abstract geometry of four dimensions.

It is not possible to give a resumé of the contents in a review, but some idea can be gained of the point of view by stating