various branches of the theory of functions" would be of service to students to whom the mass of existing literature appeared "rather formidable". It proves, too, that early reviewers were right in recognizing a quality of readability in his writing; in effect, the advice given to students was: "This is a book from which you will be able to learn how to do mathematics", and we cannot do better than repeat this advice with all the confidence that comes from knowing that it has been endorsed by those best situated to discover that it was sound, namely, the students who have followed it.   E. H. N.

Planetary Co-ordinates for the Years 1940-60 referred to the Equinox of 1950·0

Prepared by H.M. Nautical Almanac Office. Pp. xvi + 150. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1939.) 17s. 6d. net.

THE present work is a continuation of the previous volume published in 1933, which contained certain ephemeral data up to 1940; it extends these from 1940 to 1960. The general arrangement is the same as in the first volume, but certain alterations have been introduced which add considerably to the convenience of the tables. As computing machines will be used almost entirely in connexion with the work, the logarithm of the radius vector has been omitted and a column giving the Julian date has been inserted.

Those who are engaged in the computation of planetary perturbations will find a great convenience from the method of arranging the planetary co-ordinates. The material for Venus and the Earth is printed on facing pages, and the same applies to Jupiter and Saturn, the ephemeris for the latter planet being given for intervals of 10 days instead of 20 days as in the previous volume. The material for Uranus and Neptune is also printed on facing pages, intervals of 40 days being retained as before. The attractions of the sun are given to an extra decimal, the last figure retained being the tenth decimal. This refinement is quite unnecessary for comets, but will have an important application in the case of the perturbations of minor planets. The late Prof. Numerov and Dr. Bower outlined a scheme for the computation of very accurate ephemerides of certain minor planets, from which systematic corrections to star places could be determined, and the extra figure will serve a useful purpose here.

The first volume gave the spherical co-ordinates of Uranus and Neptune from 1903 to 1940 at intervals of 200 days, and the present volume includes these co-ordinates from 1800 to 1903. Full details are given of the application of Cowell's method for the computation of perturbations, Comet 1933f (Whipple) being selected for the purpose. This particular part of the work was done by Miss F. M. McBain under the direction of the Superintendent. It is scarcely necessary to add that the volume will be invaluable to computers in various branches of astronomical work.   M. D.

Astronomy

A Textbook for University and College Students. By Prof. Robert H. Baker. Second edition. Pp. xx + 522. (New York: D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc.; London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1939.) 16s. net.

THE first edition of this work appeared in 1930 and the second edition in 1933. Two reprints of the later edition appeared in 1934 and 1935 and the present volume is a third reprint. While the book is excellent in many respects, it is regrettable that a third edition was not produced instead of a reprint. This would have brought it up to date and would have enhanced its value very much. As one instance of the necessity for a new edition, we may refer to the story of Galileo and the Leaning Tower of Pisa, repeated on p. 151. Prof. Lane Cooper has shown that there is no foundation for the story, and Prof. A. S. Eve, while not agreeing entirely with Cooper, nevertheless concludes that "definite historical evidence is lacking" (NATURE, 137, 8, Jan. 4, 1936). It is to be hoped that a new edition will be put in preparation.   M. D.

MISCELLANY

Aequanimitas

With other Addresses to Medical Students, Nurses and Practitioners of Medicine. By Sir William Osler. Reprinted from the third edition. Biographical Note by Sir Walter Langdon-Brown. Pp. xiv + 452. (London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 1939.) 7s. 6d. net.

THIS book, which contains the best-known of Osler's minor writings, consists of twenty-two addresses, seventeen of which were delivered in various parts of the United States (New York, Boston, Philadelphia, New Haven and Baltimore) and five in Canada (Montreal and Toronto). The well-merited popularity of the work, of which the present edition contains a sympathetic preface by one whom Osler would have called his "brother Regius", is shown by the fact that three impressions were made of the first and nine of the second edition.

Though addressed primarily to medical practitioners and students, the work, owing to its cosmopolitan outlook, will appeal to a much wider circle of readers, especially at the present time. With a characteristic blend of ripe wisdom and playfulness, Osler discusses a great variety of subjects, such as the education of the medical student and post-graduate, the importance of foreign travel and avoidance of Chauvinism, the necessity of doing the day's work well and before the age of forty, and physic and physicians as depicted in Plato. A 'bedside library' of books for medical students is appended, consisting of the Old and New Testament, Shakespeare, Montaigne, Plutarch's Lives, Marcus Aurelius, Epictetus, "Religio Medici", "Don Quixote", Emerson and Oliver Wendell Holmes' "Breakfast-Table Series".