

Probably few students will read through the whole of Section II., which includes chapters on Surfaces in Contact, Interpenetration of Solids, Cast Shadows and Metric Projection. It seems a pity that only four pages are devoted to Spherical Triangles.

The perusal of such a book—a goldmine of information on the application of geometry to matters of human interest—makes one desire to bring the fundamental ideas within the reach of schoolboys. Perhaps in time we may hope to see a school course in Solid Geometry based on Motion of Rotation about an axis and Parallel Motion, and developing simultaneously the foundation principles of Pure Geometry, Descriptive Geometry, Coordinate Solid Geometry, and Spherical Trigonometry. W J. DOBBS.

Nouveaux Essais de Magie arithmétique polygonale. Étoiles magiques à 10 et 12 branches. Pp. 26. **Questions inédites de Magie arithmétique polygonale. Étoiles magiques à 8, 16 et 20 branches et rosaces hypermagiques.** Pp. 21. Par C. SALOMON. 1·50 fr. each. 1913. (Gauthier-Villars, Paris.)

These extensions of a former pamphlet contain many curious and complicated magic figures, all constructed by the same method of superposing two figures with simpler properties. H. P. H.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *Mathematical Gazette*.

Osborne, 31st March, 1914.

SIR,—The interesting argument in your March number between Mr. A. G. Cracknell and your reviewer X. Y Z. suggests the following reflection: If these questions of fundamental laws in arithmetic and algebra are so difficult as to be a matter of dispute between two competent mathematicians, why trouble beginners about them?

X. Y Z. “again puts his conundrum: ‘6 lbs. of sugar $1\frac{1}{2}$ times...?’” Why not 9 lbs.? I don’t think that most people would consider it wrong to say that 6 lbs. are contained in 9 lbs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ times, or that the circumference of a circle is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ times the diameter.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES GODFREY.

THE FORTHCOMING EDINBURGH MATHEMATICAL COLLOQUIUM.

THE successful Colloquium which was held in Edinburgh last August was described in the October number of the *Gazette*, and the suggestion was there made that a Colloquium should be held in the same city in the present year, in conjunction with the Napier Tercentenary Celebrations. This suggestion has been adopted by the Edinburgh Mathematical Society, who have now resolved to hold an open Colloquium on July 28th to 31st inclusive, immediately following the Napier celebrations on July 24th to 27th. The following short courses of lectures have been arranged:

(A) Two lectures by **M. d’Ocagne** (*Professor at the École Polytechnique and the École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées, Paris, and Past President of the Société Mathématique de France*), on NOMOGRAPHY.

It is now generally recognised that for most purposes the nomographic methods are superior to the older graphical methods of calculation. The introduction of some nomographic teaching in British Universities (and schools, for much of it is not too hard for schoolboys) is much to be desired.