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For many years Trautwein's book has been, perhaps, the most consulted reference work to be found on the civil engineer's and the mechanical engineer's desk. Its tables have always proven trustworthy and of great intrinsic value. The present edition is the eighteenth. Its revisers have made not a few changes which, it must be confessed, have improved the work. The most radical and extensive of all the changes are those on trusses, etc. The chapters have there been almost entirely rewritten and completely modernized. More than 370 pages of new matter have been added. Consequently the new edition is considerably larger than its predecessors.

**A DISCUSSION OF COMPOSITION ESPECIALLY AS APPLIED TO ARCHITECTURE.** By John Vredenburg Van Pelt. New York: The Macmillan Company. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. 1902. Pp. viii, 275.

The present discussion of composition is divided into six parts. The first treats of the general laws of character and art; the second, general technical laws; and the last four have to do with applications, the third and fifth being respectively theoretical discussions of decoration and plans; the fourth and sixth contain practical suggestions on the same subject. Since an analysis of composition is necessarily more negative than positive, it follows that the author's method of explaining consists more in pointing out what should not be done rather than what should be done.

**ELEMENTS OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING. A First Year's Course for Students.** By Tyson Sewell. New York: D. Van Nostrand Company. 1902. 12mo. Pp. 322. Price \$3.

Considered as a treatise on elementary engineering or—as the sub-title of the book more aptly terms it—"A First Year's Course for Students," it cannot be denied that the work before us has merit. But as in most books of this character, the arrangement is open to criticism. To begin with Ohm's law is undoubtedly a good plan, but the author's steadfast adherence to the time-honored method of explaining the law is hardly to be considered an aid to clearness. For an elementary book the work sometimes goes into too much detail, and sometimes omits important subjects. It seems to us unnecessary to have discussed so elaborately manufacturing processes, and it might have been advisable to have included something of the alternating current, which plays so important a part nowadays in long-distance transmission.

**RECIPES FOR THE COLOUR, PAINT, VARNISH, OIL, SOAP AND DRY-SALTERY TRADES.** Compiled by an Analytical Chemist. London: Scott, Greenwood & Co. New York: D. Van Nostrand Company. 1902. Pp. 347. Price \$3.50.

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**BACTERIAL TREATMENT OF CRUDE SEWAGE.** Fourth Report by Dr. Clowes. Experimental Treatment of London Crude Sewage in Settling-Tanks and Coke Beds at Barking and Crossness. Presented to the Main Drainage Committee of the Council by Prof. Frank Clowes, D.Sc. (London) F.I.C. (Chief Chemist to the Council), on April 17, 1902. James Truscott & Son, Ltd., Suffolk Lane, Cannon Street, E. C.

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**KAUFMAENNISCHER BEITRAG ZUR LOESUNG DER SCHIENENSTOSSFRAGE.** Von Max Barschall. Berlin W. 35, Lützowstrasse 105. "Gutenberg" Druckerei und Verlag, Act.-Ges.

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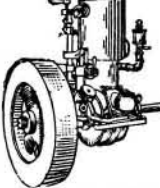
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