

these as 0002, or, possibly, 00021. There is very little to choose between the two methods except as to the ease in writing, speaking and printing.

As to the classification or arrangement of subjects, my personal preference would be strongly in favor of a simple dictionary catalogue.

CLEVELAND ABBE.

#### THE STOKES JUBILEE.

ON June 1 and 2, 1899, the University of Cambridge celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the appointment of Sir George Gabriel Stokes to the Lucasian professorship of mathematics in that institution. During the half century of his connection with Cambridge, Professor Stokes has distinguished himself by a remarkable series of investigations in the fields of hydromechanics, physical geodesy, elasticity, the undulatory theory of light, and pure mathematics. His activity has continued down to the present date, one of his most recent papers dealing with the mechanical properties of the X-rays.

The celebration of so rare an event in academic life, and the eagerness of educational and scientific institutions to render homage to so eminent a man, naturally brought together a large body of specialists in the mathematico-physical sciences. About 400 delegates and other guests were present. Nearly all of these were entertained either in the colleges or in the homes of members of the professorial staff. Thus was it made easy for the stranger within the gates of this renowned University to see much of its inner life and to enjoy in the fullest degree its charming hospitality.

The ceremonies began on the afternoon of June 1st, with the Rede Lecture, delivered in the Senate House, by Professor Cornu, on 'The wave theory of light; its influence on modern physics.' This was delivered with admirable clearness in French. In the

evening following a *conversazione* was held in Fitzwilliam Museum, and busts of Sir George Stokes were presented to the University and to Pembroke College (that of Stokes) by Lord Kelvin.

On the morning of June 2d the delegates and guests were received in the Senate House by the Vice-Chancellor and the delegates presented the addresses sent by the various academic and scientific institutions. There were about seventy such addresses, so that it was essential to dispense with the formal reading of them in most cases. Professor Stokes responded briefly and with great modesty to these addresses, saying that they made him feel that in his long life he ought to have accomplished much more; but, he added, humorously: If I had done more I probably should not have lived to celebrate this jubilee.

On the afternoon of June 2d the address of the University of Cambridge and a gold medal were presented to Sir George Stokes; and immediately thereafter the degree of Doctor in Science, *honoris causa*, was conferred on the following distinguished men of science: Marie Alfred Cornu, professor of experimental physics in the École Polytechnique, Paris; Jean Gaston Darboux, dean of the faculty of sciences in the University of Paris; Albert Abraham Michelson, professor of experimental physics in the University of Chicago; Magnus Gustav Mittag-Leffler, professor of pure mathematics, Stockholm; Georg Herman Quincke, professor of experimental physics in the University of Heidelberg; and Woldemar Voigt, professor of mathematical physics in the University of Göttingen.

#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS.

*A Text-Book of Physics—Sound.* By J. H. POYN-  
TING and J. J. THOMSON. London, Charles  
Griffin & Co. 1899. Pp. 163.

This is the first one of five volumes in