

reasoning as he has employed might prove of great value to the metallurgist in explaining the properties of many of the alloys with which he is familiar.

P.

### A NOTABLE GIFT TO MATHEMATICS

THE publication, February, 1925, of the first of the Carus Mathematical Monographs marks the beginning of an enterprise made possible by a notable gift to the Mathematical Association of America by Mrs. Mary Hegeler Carus as trustee of the foundation underlying the Open Court Publishing Company, of Chicago.

These monographs are an expression of the desire of Mrs. Carus and of her son, Dr. Edward H. Carus, to contribute to the dissemination of mathematical knowledge by making accessible at nominal cost a series of expository presentations of the best thoughts and keenest researches in pure and applied mathematics. These expositions are to be set forth in a manner comprehensible not only to teachers and students specializing in mathematics, but also to scientific workers in other fields, and especially to the wide circle of thoughtful people who, having a moderate acquaintance with elementary mathematics, wish to extend their knowledge without prolonged and critical study of the mathematical journals and treatises. It is proposed to state in the preface of each monograph the extent of mathematical knowledge presupposed on the part of the reader.

In this first of the series of monographs, entitled "Calculus of variations" by Professor G. A. Bliss, of the University of Chicago, the author assumes that the reader has an acquaintance with the elementary principles of the differential and integral calculus, but even without such knowledge the geometrical or mechanical statements of the problems, the introductions to the various chapters and the italicized theorems throughout the book should be intelligible to any reader interested in mathematics. In the final chapter only some simple properties of differential equations are presupposed, but these have already been illustrated in the preceding chapters and are described in detail in the text.

These monographs are published for the Mathematical Association of America and are distributed at cost to its members. They are made accessible to the general public through the Open Court Publishing Company, of Chicago, Illinois.

This generous gift by Mrs. Carus to the Mathematical Association of America is especially timely in view of the great difficulty now experienced by all scientific organizations in meeting the high cost of printing both of journals and of books. She is thus not only making possible the publication of high-

grade mathematical books which otherwise would be quite beyond the power of the association to handle, but she is also enabling the association to do a real service for the large body of those who have a definite interest in mathematics but who are not technical specialists in this field.

The second monograph in this series will soon be ready for the printer. It is entitled "Functions of a complex variable," by Professor D. R. Curtiss, of Northwestern University. Still others are in preparation. The opportunity for service in this line by the Association seems quite unlimited. In fact, no limit is contemplated so long as the purpose in view seems to be successfully attained.

H. E. SLAUGHT

### THE DANIEL GIRAUD ELLIOT MEDAL

THE National Academy of Sciences having approved the recommendation of the Committee on Award of the Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal for 1924, the medal and honorarium will be presented at the April meeting of the academy to Abbé Henri Breuil for his work, in collaboration with MM. Capitan and Peyrony, on the volume, "Les Combarelles des Eyzies," as the most outstanding contribution of 1924 in this field.

Henri Breuil is the foremost living authority on the archeology of the Old Stone Age. His chief contributions are the recognition of the great Aurignacian upper paleolithic stage and the monographing of the entire Stone Age art of France and Spain. "Les Combarelles des Eyzies" is the last and most comprehensive of a series of epoch-making monographs; it describes and interprets every one of the 291 figures discovered in the Grotto of Combarelles. Abbé Breuil is a man of untiring endeavor, great personal courage and deliberate and philosophic interpretative powers. He is the head officer of the Institut de Paléontologie Humaine, which was founded by the late Prince of Monaco.

This is the eighth award of the Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal, previous presentations having been made as follows:

- 1917: Frank M. Chapman—"Distribution of bird life in Colombia."
- 1918: William Beebe—"A monograph of the pheasants."
- 1919: Robert Ridgway—"Birds of North and Middle America" (Part VIII).
- 1920: Othenio Abel—"Methoden der Palaobiologischen Forschung."
- 1921: Bashford Dean—"A bibliography of fishes" (Volume I).
- 1922: William Morton Wheeler—"Ants of the American Museum Congo Expedition."