## THE APPENDIX. (a)

The question to be here briefly noticed is, whether 'Euclid's Elements,' having regard to the apparent intention of the author (or authors) of that work, should be considered a treatise on one peculiar division of knowledge (one science) only—that is to say, a treatise on the inter-relation of the subjects of the science and of the laws which govern and belong to that peculiar (so-called) science of geometry; or whether the work should be considered, in regard to its purpose, a practical treatise on applied reasoning—teaching, by illustration, the correct mode of building-up (compounding) science from its elements.

We will briefly examine two important propositions of those belonging to the 'Elements' as to any evidence they may afford in this respect.

The first prop. of the third book : 'To find the centre of a circle.' It is at once evident that this prop., because of the use made by Euclid of the circle, must be considered, if regarded as one of the Elements of a peculiar science (geometry), as a prop. of great relative import-The plan of the book, assuming the purpose of ance. that plan to be a treatise on the science only, would call for a solution of this prop. in such a form as to constitute it a primary or fundamental prop., upon which secondary propositions and corollaries could be based and shown to be directly dependant. One or more definitions or axioms might obviously be provided to furnish any necessary support for a concise and comprehensive solution. At least, in regard to such supposed purpose, a direct character for the solution would suggest itself as almost imperative. As it stands, the character of the solution is indirect, and may be termed negative; it gets constructively at the answer to the requisition by a very simple operation, but, as a reasonable and subjective proceeding, this operation is only supported by