

nounced *PARRALEELO-GRAMMA*, which means a *parallel drawn figure*. See the derivation of the word *PARALLEL* above.

POSTULATES.

The term *POSTULATE* is derived from the Latin verb *POSTULARE*, to ask or demand. We are asked to allow that certain assertions are true, without requiring any proof of the truth of the statements made in them. On inspection, we see at once that what is demanded is possible, and that proof by a chain of mathematical reasoning is unnecessary.

Let it be granted,

I. That a *STRAIGHT LINE* may be drawn from any one point to any other point.

Look at definition IV. "*A straight line is that which lies evenly between its extreme points*," it matters not where the extreme points of the straight line may be in position; therefore, wherever we may determine the position of any two points, it is possible for us to draw a straight line between them.

II. That a *TERMINATED STRAIGHT LINE* may be produced to any length in a straight line (*in the same straight course*).

We wish to extend the length of a certain straight line that we have drawn. We do this, in practice, by placing the edge of our flat ruler against the line already drawn, and tracing a continuation of the same by passing our pen or pencil along the edge of the ruler to the distance desired, whatever length that distance may be.

III. That a *CIRCLE* may be described from any centre, at any distance from that centre.

We can place one leg of our compasses on any point we choose, and trace large or small circles with the other leg, accordingly as we bring the legs of the compasses farther apart or closer together.

AXIOMS.

The word *AXIOM* is derived from a Greek noun, pronounced *AX-I-Ō-MA*, which means a *statement which CLAIMS belief by reason of its self evident truth*.

An Axiom is an assertion worthy of credit, a simple truth which is self-evident, admitting of no argument with respect to its correctness, and requiring no proof. The first seven are alike applicable to numbers, superficial extent, and solids.

I. Things which are equal to the same thing are equal to one another.

In numbers $3 + 2 = 5$, $4 + 1 = 5$; therefore $3 + 2 = 4 + 1$, since both compound quantities are equal to the same simple quantity.