

it will become a recognised text-book on the subject—the general arrangement being very good, and the execution of a great part of it equally so, and the collection of examples being at once bountiful and judiciously selected. And yet in spite of this the book is disfigured by so many defects, and contains so much that absolutely demands the aid of the teacher, that it contrasts most unfavorably with the clear and systematic treatises which the author has published on the Differential Calculus, and on Analytical Geometry. Some of these objectionable points we will proceed to point out—our space will not admit of our entering into a detailed examination of the work.

Perhaps the portion of the work which most disappointed us was the first chapter, containing an exposition of the fundamental principles upon which the science is made to rest. There was unquestionably enough room for improvement: in fact we rather suspect that we should have treatises upon statics in sufficient abundance, if it were not that many a would-be author is diverted from the task by the dread of that unhappy preliminary chapter—"Introduction and Definitions," as it is called in Mr. Pratt's book—Mr. Todhunter, we suppose by way of making some variation, leaves out the "and" and calls *his* first chapter "Introduction, Definitions." Unfortunately this variation in the heading gives but too faithful a representation of the changes made in the chapter itself. Of course when a writer professes, as Mr. Todhunter does in his preface, that his work may be considered as a "re-publication with large additions," of a former treatise, we have no right to complain that a great portion of the new work—the main body of the essential propositions—should be substantially the same as in the earlier book. But we think that we have a right to complain when we find the self-same bald unsatisfactory definitions put forth in 1853 which passed muster some ten or fifteen years before. Nor is this all. Mr. Pratt's "Introduction and Definitions" are really taken almost literally from Poisson's Introduction to his "*Traité de Mécanique*." Out of this Introduction Mr. Pratt has taken the definitions in the harsh and almost pedantic form in which they are found in the original, and has intermingled some explanatory matter of his own. All this explanatory matter the new editor has ruthlessly swept away, and gives us Poisson, and nothing but Poisson—except indeed where the translation is occasionally defective. Let us give an example or two. Poisson opens his treatise with the abrupt announcement that "*La matière est tout ce qui peut affecter nos sens d'une manière quel-*