
Stellar Dynamics

Behind this imposing title is an imposing book written by a man who is master of his subject. The material is for the advanced student and is highly mathematical in its treatment of the several problems which are concerned with the movement of stars in space. The book is a member of the most advanced series of mathematical treatises sponsored by the Cambridge University Press. It is not recommended to any but those who have thorough training in the solution of differential equations and theory of functions. The problems in stellar dynamics are treated in cartesian, cylindrical and polar coordinates. Vector analysis is not used, a fact which is surprising because at least one of the problems discussed could have been treated better by vectorial methods than by those which were used.

The reviewer has worked through that portion of the book which deals with the problem of rotation of the galaxy. The mathematical treatment was found to be straight-forward, definite and clear. Less detailed examination of the remainder of the book indicates that it should be highly recommended to students of dynamical problems in astronomy.—*C. E. Hesthal.*

Stellar Dynamics, by W. M. Smart. viii+434 pp. Cambridge at the University Press; in New York, the Macmillan Co., 1938. \$8.50.