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NOTES

Attributed to Peirce by Fisch in *First Supplement*. Peirce and Halsted were in correspondence (see MS L 181). On 15 January 1892, Halsted wrote that he would be sending his translation of Bolyai in a few days. This note is unassigned in Haskell's *Index to* The Nation, vol. 1.

Prof. George Bruce Halsted, whose valuable translation of Lobatchevsky's 'Non-Euclidian Geometry' we noticed the other day, has now published a translation of Bolyai's celebrated work on the same subject. The translator says in his introduction: "This strange Hungarian flower was saved for the world, after more than thirty-five years of oblivion, by the rare erudition of Prof. Richard Baltzer. In the second edition of his 'Elemente der Mathematik,' in 1867, Dr. Baltzer called attention to this remaking of geometry, and the name Bolyai was at last given its place in the history of science. Before that, the father, Wolfgang Bolyai, seems to have been the only person who really appreciated the work of his son John Bolyai." We are told that "Bolyai, when in garrison with cavalry officers, was challenged by thirteen of them at once. He accepted all, stipulating only that between each two successive duels he might play a bit on his violin. He was victor thirteen times." He left a manuscript of a thousand pages which has never been examined by a competent mathematician. The work now translated will be seen by most of those who are specially interested in the subject, for the first time. It is historically of the deepest interest, but, as an introduction to the subject, is inferior to the work of Lobatchevsky. Prof. Halsted's publication confers, however, an even greater boon upon mathematicians than his other translation.

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NOTES

CSP. identification: Haskell. *Index to* The Nation. See also: Burks, *Bibliography: List of Articles.*

—Prof. William James has produced an abridgment of his important treatise upon Psychology, with some additional matter for the use of beginners (Henry Holt & Co.). His "natural science" method, which consists of ignoring all general doubt, is carried even further in the briefer than in the fuller work. An epilogue is appended for the further defence of this method, but to no avail. Students of molecular physics presume, for reasons that seem good to them, that certain things are absolutely true of the universe in every part, such as the tridimensionality of space, its infinity, the law of action and reaction, the principle of energy, and the like. These universal truths, as they are held to be, have a basis in experience, but are extended so far beyond the domain of observation as to be fairly termed metaphysical. In many branches of physics it is easy to show that they are near enough true for practical purposes; but in molecular discussions the question of the truth of such things has to be sifted to the bottom, on pain