CORRIGENDUM

In the review of *Clinical Psychology*, by Charles Berg, M.D. (July 1949), the phrase "and I am sure" (p. 277, line 2) should have been "and I am not sure."

NEW BOOKS

Mathematics in Aristotle. By SIR THOMAS HEATH. (Clarendon Press: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1949. Pp. xiv +291. Price 21s.)

Sir Thomas Heath died in 1940. After his death, Lady Heath found the MS. of this work and took it to Sir David Ross, who read it through and reported that though a rough copy only, it was complete, and advised that a fair copy should be prepared. This was undertaken by Lady Heath and the present volume is the result. It is pleasant to read in Lady Heath's preface that their son, Geoffrey T. Heath, assisted in reading proofs, revising formulae, etc.

The book consists of short paragraphs of English translations (made by Heath himself during the later years of his life), grouped according to the Aristotelian work from which they have been taken, and each given an informative mathematical heading in English; very often the passage is followed by a passage of commentary by Heath, or notes on possible emendation of the text. The book has a detailed table of contents and comprehensive indexes.

The book opens up the whole text of Aristotle to mathematicians who have no Greek, and enables them to form a judgment of Aristotle both as a mathematician and as a mathematical philosopher. He was, as would be expected in an encyclopaedist of his grandeur, no narrow specialist, and the topics dealt with in these extracts cover the whole range of the then mathematical knowledge, both "pure" and "applied." As instances there may be mentioned elementary propositions in geometry (especially the sum of the angles of a triangle being two right angles) the incommensurability of the diagonal of a square, the definitions of points, lines and surfaces and the question of their divisibility, Zeno's and other paradoxes, circular and rectilinear motion, the number of dimensions of space, the difference between mathematics and physics, the elements of mechanics (these rather from Aristotle's school than from Aristotle himself), the infinite, the nature of definitions and axioms, the aesthetics of mathematics and the qualities needed in mathematical proof. On the whole it cannot be said that Aristotle is very profound on any of these subjects; he does not display the depth of Euclid, for example. Heath, in his preface to the Everyman Euclid of 1932 recommends Euclid as a bedside book, and the reviewer must state that on reading through this Euclid recently he was unexpectedly thrilled by the undeviating purposefulness of Euclid in never either allowing himself to be deflected or pausing to view the geometrical scenery, but always relentlessly pushing on with propositions that will later be keystones in the structure, however unattractive at the moment. The present work from Aristotle is equally a bedside book, but it is more akin to de Morgan's *Budget of Paradoxes* in the kind of pleasure it affords.

There is no doubt upon which side Aristotle would have been in the current controversy between those who uphold a utilitarian origin for science and those who attribute scientific advances to the spur of curiosity. The "master of them that know" would have been well to the West of the iron curtain. For example: "When all such arts had been established, those of the sciences which are directed neither to pleasure nor to the necessities of life were in turn discovered, and this happened first in those places where men enjoyed leisure. . . . It was owing to wondering that men began and still continue to philo-