

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE MITTAG-LEFFLER TESTAMENT AND INSTITUTE.

Three years ago, Dr. Gustaf Mittag-Leffler, the eminent Swedish mathematician who was Weierstrass's most brilliant pupil at Berlin, celebrated his seventieth birthday at Stockholm on March 16, 1916. On this occasion the testament of Dr. Mittag-Leffler and his wife was published; and an extract from it is translated in the *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society* for October, 1916, by Dr. Caroline E. Seely. Dr. Mittag-Leffler and his wife bequeath after their deaths all their possessions to a foundation bearing the name "Mittag-Leffler Institute," which is to help to maintain and develop the study of pure mathematics in the four Scandinavian countries of Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Norway. Professor Mittag-Leffler's library is to be preserved and enriched in the large villa now belonging to him at Djursholm near Stockholm, which has been built and arranged with the purpose in view; fellowships for study of pure mathematics at home or abroad are to be granted to young people of both sexes; and medals are to be granted for important work in pure mathematics. All this is of direct benefit to Scandinavians alone; but at least once every six years a further prize for a really important discovery in pure mathematics is to be awarded without regard to the nationality of the author. This prize is to consist of a large gold medal, a diploma, and as complete a set as possible of the *Acta Mathematica*; and the person to whom the prize is awarded is to be invited to appear himself at Djursholm to receive it, a suitable appropriation for his traveling expenses being made.

The portrait of Professor Mittag-Leffler which forms the frontispiece of this number of *The Open Court* is from a drawing by C. W. Maud after a photograph which appeared some years ago in the *American Journal of Mathematics*.

This is the first institute in which the claims of pure mathematics in particular as an important part of the work of civilization has been recognized. Thus all pure mathematicians—and, we may add, all cultivators of the science of form—will be encouraged by the noble example of Professor Mittag-Leffler, who himself has already done so much to increase the power of pure mathematics.

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BOOK REVIEWS.

GOETHE. By *Calvin Thomas*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1917. Pp. xii, 368. Price, \$2.00 net.

Calvin Thomas, professor of German in Columbia University, has written an attractive book of over 368 pages on Goethe. It consists of sixteen chapters, eight of which are devoted to a critical study of the poet's life, while