

OUR DEBT TO THE PAST.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

THE USES AND TRIUMPHS OF MATHEMATICS.

*ITS BEAUTIES AND ATTRACTIONS POPULARLY
TREATED IN THE LANGUAGE OF EVERYDAY LIFE.*

Crown 8vo, Cloth, Price 2s. 6d.

‘The object with which Mr V. E. Johnson has issued this remarkable little work is to create a desire for the study of mathematics by showing its intimate and important connection with so many branches of science, by stating and explaining certain of its uses and triumphs, and by attempting to prove that it is a subject possessed of a beauty and attraction entirely its own. . . . He certainly succeeds in showing that his favourite science has its pleasant moments, its fascinating characteristics, and a higher and nobler end than is apparent to the half-hearted student.’—*Morning Post*.

GRIFFITH FARRAN OKEDEN & WELSH, LONDON.

OUR DEBT TO THE PAST

OR

Chaldean Science

AND AN ESSAY ON
 MATHEMATICS AND THE FINE ARTS

BY
 V. E. JOHNSON, B.A.

AUTHOR OF 'THE USES AND TRIUMPHS OF MATHEMATICS'

'We are what we are, we possess what we possess, even in the very elements of our knowledge—thanks to the labours of the ancients.'—*Max Müller.*

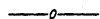


XXII-7432

LONDON
 GRIFFITH FARRAN OKEDEN & WELSH
 NEWBERRY HOUSE, CHARING CROSS ROAD
 AND SYDNEY

The Rights of Translation and of Reproduction are reserved.

PREFACE.



THE favourable reception accorded to my 'Uses and Triumphs of Mathematics' has led to the publication of this little work, in which I have endeavoured to give, in a popular form, a clear, concise, and, as far as possible, accurate account of what modern science, in conjunction with ancient testimony, has revealed to us about the scientific knowledge of one, if not of *the* most remarkable and interesting people of antiquity; and by so doing to illustrate, *not* the superiority of the ancients to the moderns, than which nothing can be more untrue, but to show that those who preceded us by many, many centuries