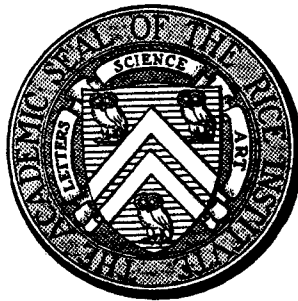


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FOREWORD

DURING the second half of the year 1924, I had the honour of visiting a considerable number of American universities and scientific foundations, where I delivered lectures. These lectures, held under the auspices of the Commission for Relief in Belgium, were terminated at the Rice Institute in Houston. The administration of this notable scientific institution has kindly requested me to reproduce the essential part of them for translation and printing in its publication. It is, therefore, the condensed text of this series of lectures which will be found in the following pages.

CHARLES DE LA VALLÉE POUSSIN

