Eighth Meeting, June 9, 1893.

JOHN ALISON, Esq., M.A., F.R.S.E., President, in the Chair.

Japanese Arithmetic.

By Prof. C. G. Knott, D.Sc., F.R.S.E.

The paper was mainly an account of the abacus, as used in China and Japan. The instrument was shown, and the various operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and extraction of square and cube roots, were illustrated. The multiplication and division tables were fully described, the latter being especially interesting. The historic development of the abacus in the East was also touched upon. A full account of the Chinese and Japanese abacus will be found in a paper by the author, entitled, "The Abacus, in its Historic and Scientific Aspects," published in the *Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan* (vol. XIV., 1886). A copy of this paper is in the library of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society.

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The appearance of this *Review* is a significant indication of the enormous development of mathematical studies in recent years. Nearly every one who has attempted to keep himself abreast of mathematical research has been obliged sooner or later to recognise the practical impossibility of mastering the literature of every branch, and has resigned himself to a comparatively elementary study of the general subject while devoting his main energies to