



A History of Elementary Mathematics with Hints on Methods of Teaching

By Florian Cajori

Theclassics.Us, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ****** Print on Demand ******. This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1897 edition. Excerpt: . ALGEBRA The Renaissance One of the great steps in the development of algebra during the sixteenth century was the algebraic solution of cubic equations. The honour of this remarkable feat belongs to the Italians.1 The first successful attack upon cubic equations was made by Scipio Ferro (died in 1526), professor of mathematics at Bologna. He solved cubics of the form x3] mx = n, but nothing more is known of his solution than that he taught it to his pupil Floridus in 1505. It was the practice in those days and during centuries afterwards for teachers to keep secret their discoveries or their new methods of treatment, in order that pupils might not acquire this knowledge, except at their own schools, or in order to secure an advantage over rival mathematicians by proposing problems beyond their reach. This practice gave rise to...



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