

The remaining writings of Hero of Alexandria have been the subject of a special, careful, and learned examination by M. Th. H. Martin (Paris, 1854), in which the works of this writer, Hero the Ancient, as he is sometimes called, are distinguished from those of another writer of the same name of later date.

Hero of Alexandria wrote also, as it appears, a treatise on *Pneumatics*, in which he described machines, either useful or amusing, moved by the force of air and vapor.

He also wrote a work called *Catoptrics*, which contained proofs of properties of the rays of reflected light.

And a treatise *On the Dioptra*; which subject, however, must be carefully distinguished from the subject entitled *Dioptrics* by the moderns. This latter subject treats of the properties of *refracted* light; a subject on which the ancients had little exact knowledge till a later period, as I have shown in the History. The *Dioptra*, as understood by Hero, was an instrument for taking angles so as to measure the position, and hence to determine the distance of inaccessible objects; as is done by the *Theodolite* in our times.

M. Martin is of opinion that Hero of Alexandria lived at a later period than is generally supposed; namely, after B. C. 81.