The last part of the Jyotihçástra, the Sanhitá, is delivered by the author in the work just published by me. It is commonly called Váráhí Sanhitá, but it being desirable to distinguish it from the Samása-Sanhitá or succinct Sanhitá of the author, the first title is preferable. The Samása-Sanhitá has not been recovered as yet, and is known to me only from the quotations of Bhaṭṭa Utpala.

The Bṛhat-Sanhitá is now-a-days little studied, if at all, in Northern India, however popular it may have been in former times. This is but natural ; it teaches so many things of exceptional use and it is so pre-eminently a manual for court astrologers, that village astrologers are wise in their generation to confine themselves to their horoscopes for marriages. Now that the palmy days of petty princes are gone, a study of such works as the Bṛhat-Sanhitá would not pay. For us it is exactly the richness in details to which Hindus, as a rule, are entirely indifferent, which constitutes the chief attraction of the work ; for the same reasons it was so highly valued by Albírúní. Although an astrological book, it contains important astronomical data, and its value for geography, architecture, sculpture, etc. is unequalled by any Sanskrit work as yet published. Nor is it of slight importance as regards mere Sanskrit philology.

The merits of Varáha-mihira as an astronomer cannot be adequately inferred from the present publication ; we ought to possess the whole of his treatise before we could do him justice. In the Bṛhat-Sanhitá he is in the awkward position of a man who has to reconcile the exigencies of science and the decrees, deemed infallible, of the Ṛshis.* The result of such an attempt is not satisfactory. Thus much is to be gathered from his writings, especially from the fragments of the Pancasiddhántiká, that he belongs to the class of Áryabhaṭa, Brahmagupta, Bháskara. It has been supposed that he was the first to fix the Hindu sphere at the beginning of Açviní, but this does not

* For some curious examples see Bṛh. Sanh. V. 1—17 ; IX. 6, sq.