Brought forward,	373
<i>Deduct Deceased</i> —Dr James Warburton Begbie; David Bryce; G. Stirling Home Drummond; Lewis D. B. Gordon, C.E.; Sir George Harvey; Dr Laycock; Thomas Login, C.E.; Alexander Russel; The Marquis of Tweeddale,	
9	
<i>Resigned</i> —Hon. Charles Baillie (Lord Jerviswoode)	
1	
	10
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Total number of Ordinary Fellows at November 1876, .	363
Add Honorary and Non-Resident Fellows,	56
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Total Honorary and Ordinary Fellows at commencement of Session 1876–77,	419

Monday, 18th December 1876.

SIR WILLIAM THOMSON, President, in the Chair.

The following Communications were read:—

1. On the Roots of the Equation $V \rho \phi \rho = 0$. By Gustav Plarr. Communicated by Professor Tait.

2. Applications of the Theorem that Two Closed Plane Curves intersect an even number of times. By Prof. Tait.

(*Abstract.*)

The theorem itself may be considered obvious, and is easily applied, as I showed at the late meeting of the *British Association*, to prove that in passing from any one double point of a plane closed curve continuously along the curve to the same point again, an *even* number of intersections must be passed through. Hence, if we suppose the curve to be constructed of cord or wire, and restrict the crossings to *double points*, we may arrange them throughout so that, in following the wire continuously, it goes alternately over and under each branch it meets. When this is done it is obviously as completely knotted as its scheme (defined below) will admit of, and except in a special class of cases cannot have the number of crossings reduced by any possible deformation. The excepted class is that in