491. What Every Mathematician Needs

Author(s): P. E. B. Jourdain

Source: *The Mathematical Gazette*, Vol. 8, No. 125 (Oct., 1916), p. 312

Published by: Mathematical Association

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3604196>

Accessed: 17-10-2015 15:13 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Mathematical Association is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Mathematical Gazette*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

important suggestion, that the sign $\times$ of multiplication is usually made much too large by printers. C. S. J.

489. [v. 2.] *On a Review.*

To my review of Messrs. Richardson and Landis's *Fundamental Conceptions of Modern Mathematics* in the current number of the *Gazette*, I should like to add two notes, to which Mr. Richardson has called my attention.

First, when I said: "I heartily agree with the authors in what they say of De Morgan on pp. 120-121," I might well have quoted the authors' words: "It is a crying shame that the University of Cambridge . . . has not yet set her press to the work of issuing an edition of the collected works of Augustus De Morgan, one of the greatest of her sons." As the review stands, no one on reading it can tell whether that in which I agree with the authors is in praise or in blame of De Morgan.

Second, when I said: "In the closely allied notions that numbers are signs, that the principle of permanence is sufficient to extend our idea of number, and that a 'variable' means what it is usually said to mean, the authors seem to be correct," I (unintentionally of course) used language which is quite certain to give cursory readers the impression that the authors of *Fundamental Conceptions of Modern Mathematics* affirm numbers to be signs, the principle of permanence to be sufficient, and "variable" to mean what it is usually said to mean. They, in fact, deny each of these assertions.

PHILIP E. B. JOURDAIN.

490. [v. 1. a. δ .] 474. *Math. Gazette*, July 1916, p. 296. "Pseudo-accuracy" is even wide of the mark in saying that the third significant figure in $(23.7 \times 0.315)^2$, on the assumption that the given numbers are correct to three significant figures, cannot be relied upon; for all that we are then told is that the number lies between 56.14 and 55.33; thus it cannot be relied upon for even the second figure!

Apropos, what would be the examiner's answer to this little question?—"State the value of x , giving as many significant figures as you can rely upon, when

$$224.4 < x < 225.1."$$

J. M. CHILD.

491. [v. 10.] *What every Mathematician needs.*

It is of great importance to British mathematicians at the present time that an account of all recently published mathematical literature should be published outside Germany. The *Revue semestrielle des publications mathématiques* is published by the Mathematical Society of Amsterdam, and appears twice a year within a few months of the articles it reviews. A short account of each article is given, and no attempt is made at criticism. The list of periodicals which are regularly abstracted seems to be quite complete. References are given to all the reviews of mathematical books which appear in current literature, and this occasionally is an advantage. Both in this reference to all reviews and in the prompt appearance of accounts of articles, the *Revue* has a great advantage over the *Jahrbuch über die Fortschritte der Mathematik*, which is published in Berlin two or three years after the appearance of the articles of which it gives an account. The *Jahrbuch* is expensive, and at present is not being published. The subscription to the *Revue* is only 7s. per year, post free, and it is absolutely indispensable to all mathematicians who wish to form an idea of what work is being done at the present time. It may now be obtained in England from Mr. D. J. Bryce, 149 Strand, London, W.C.

P. E. B. JOURDAIN.

492. [v.] "Thanking you in anticipation . . ."

From *School and Society* we extract the following letters, which may be interesting to those who collect psychological material of the kind, or to