If $n > 4$, the task of finding the nodes is more laborious, but we can find an equation of degree $\frac{1}{2}(n-1)(n-2)$ for u (or v) as the abscissa of a point common to $\Delta = 0$, $\Delta_1 = 0$, ..., $\Delta_{n-2} = 0$ by routine processes of elimination. As a simple illustration we may take the quintic

$$x : y : z = 1 : (t + t^4) : t^5,$$

for which the equations $\Delta = 0$, etc. are

$$u^3 - 2uv + 1 = 0, \qquad u^2v - v^2 + u = 0,$$

$$uv^2 + u^2 - v = 0, \qquad u^3 + v^3 - 2uv = 0.$$

These four equations have in common the six solutions of

$$u^6 + 4u^3 - 1 = 0, \qquad 2uv = u^3 + 1,$$

whence

$$u = -\tfrac{1}{2}(1 \pm \sqrt{5}), \quad v = 1; \quad u = -\tfrac{1}{2}(1 \pm \sqrt{5})\,\omega, \quad v = \omega^2;$$

$$u = -\tfrac{1}{2}(1 \pm \sqrt{5})\,\omega^2, \quad v = \omega,$$

where $\omega^2 + \omega + 1 = 0$. The corresponding nodes of the quintic are

$$(2,\ \alpha + \alpha^4 + \beta + \beta^4,\ \alpha^5 + \beta^5),$$

or

$$(2,\ u^4 - 4u^2v + 2v^2 + u,\ u^5 - 5u^3v + 5uv^2);$$

that is

$$\{2, (\mp\sqrt{5} - 1), 2\}, \quad \{2, (\mp\sqrt{5} - 1)\,\omega, \quad 2\omega^2\}, \quad \{2, (\mp\sqrt{5} - 1)\,\omega^2, 2\omega\}.$$

H. S.

CORRESPONDENCE.

" ISOSCELES."

To the Editor of the *Mathematical Gazette.*

SIR,—Mr. Williamson's spells may bind his boys, but is it not a pity to divorce mathematics entirely from the still somewhat cultural classics?

I suggest that the boy who can be spell-bound by *SOS* and *ELE* can be taught to spell by correlating the *iso* of *isosceles* with the several " *iso* "-s he comes across in his geography, and that he can as readily realise that *sceles* is the basic part of skele-ton. In this way an interest may (perhaps) be directed to Greek, which provides him with most of his geographical and other iso tags. If on his first introduction to isosceles, it be (mis-) pronounced " iso-skeles ", his orthography may be helped, and he will later be able to adopt the more orthodox pronunciation and (again perhaps) remember the spelling, with an unconscious widening of his non-mathematical knowledge.

I have used " bind " in the sense in which Mr. Williamson does, not with the connotation of R.A.F. slang ! Yours, etc., I. FITZROY JONES.

COMPLEX NUMBER PHRASEOLOGY.

To the Editor of the *Mathematical Gazette.*

SIR,—The use of the words " real " and " unreal " in connection with numbers has long been felt to be unsatisfactory, particularly by such leading textbook writers as Mr. C. V Durell. And yet the former word is a most natural word at the stage when it is usually first needed, in the theory of quadratics ; this is particularly apparent in the graphical treatment of the subject.

Could the later objections be overcome by using the word *irreal* or *super-real*? Or would lovers of the English language object?

Yours, etc., T. G. C. WARD.