

## CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the *Mathematical Gazette*.

DEAR SIR,—Your reviewer has given a friendly welcome to my books on *Dynamics* published in 1929 and *Statics* published a few months ago, for which I am duly grateful.

I should not now venture to address you on the subject were it not that on p. 142 of the current volume of the *Gazette* it is suggested that I may hold a certain opinion which perhaps in honesty I ought to repudiate. "Mr. Ramsey may regret the distinction"—between "academic" and "practical"—"but his course is definitely 'academic'" Now, Sir, despite the fact that on opening the *Statics* at random I find four successive worked examples entitled "(i) *A cart wheel*. (ii) *A window sash with a broken cord*. (iii) *Braking of a carriage on an inclined plane*. (iv) *A pair of compasses*," yet I willingly accept your reviewer's judgment that the book is "academic", and I am ready to agree that it contains little that is "practical". But may I say that so far as I understand the distinction I greatly prefer the "academic" and regard it as much the more useful in teaching the principles of a subject?

May I add a word on another small point upon which your reviewer comments: viz. the absence of any reference to the *cylindroid*? It may be that some of your readers, who took the Tripos in the old days, do not realize the extent to which fashions changed with the abolition of the order of merit, and how, with the growth of new knowledge, many things which are of interest in themselves but not of great importance have had to give place. Examinations and courses of study at Cambridge now go hand in hand, and the *cylindroid*, though intrinsically beautiful, disappeared from Cambridge lectures and examinations about twenty-five years ago. It would have been rather misleading and in fact too "academic" at this date to have introduced it into a book mainly intended for schoolboys.—Your obedient servant,

Magdalene College, Cambridge.

A. S. RAMSEY.

## BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW

G. H. Hardy, J. E. Littlewood and G. Pólya. *Inequalities*. Pp. xii, 314. 16s. 1934. (Cambridge)

R. C. Tolman. *Relativity Thermodynamics and Cosmology*. Pp. xv, 502. 30s. 1934. International series of monographs on physics. (Oxford)

J. de la Vaissière. *Méthodologie scientifique. Méthodologie Dynamique interne*. Pp. 109. 24 fr. 1933. (Beauchesne, Paris)

G. Verriest. *Évariste Galois et la théorie des équations algébriques*. Pp. 58. N.p. 1934. Reprinted from *Revue des Questions scientifiques*. (Gauthier-Villars)

H. Weyl. *Mind and Nature*. Pp. vii, 100. 6s. 6d. 1934. (University of Pennsylvania Press; Oxford University Press)

F Winter. *Das Spiel der 30 bunten Würfel. MacMahon's Problem*. Pp. 128. Kart. RM. 3.60. 1934. (Teubner)

*Abstracts of Dissertations for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy*. Prepared by the Committee for Advanced Studies, University of Oxford. Pp. v, 303. 3s. 6d. 1934. (Oxford)

*Correspondance du P. Marin Mersenne, Religieux Minime. I. 1617-1627* Edited by Mme. Paul Tannery. Pp. lxiv, 668. 120 fr. 1933. (Beauchesne, Paris)

*Sir Isaac Newton's Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy and his System of the World*. Translated into English by Andrew Motte in 1729. The translation revised, and supplied with an historical and explanatory appendix by Florian Cajori. Pp. xxxv, 680. 35s. 1934. (University of California Press; Cambridge University Press)