

## NOTES ON THE DISCUSSION.

Very little was said as to extent of tables desirable, but there were no dissentients to the scheme outlined above, and it was suggested that logarithms of numbers from 1·000 to 1·200 or thereabouts should be given in greater fullness and to more decimal places, partly because of their use in connection with compound interest, the greater fullness being desirable because of the large and varying proportional parts in this portion of the table.

A better way of dealing with compound interest would, however, be to have a compound interest table, such as is given in Dr. Knott's collection, from 1 to 50 years at a number of usual rates per cent.

Mr. C. S. Jackson insisted on the need for inculcating neat methods of work, neatness being almost more important than accuracy, in the sense that neat methods and clear figures properly placed are needful to ensure accuracy.

With regard to the examination difficulty, Mr. Dobbs suggested that pupils should be allowed to use their own books, which, however, is hardly practicable in a competitive examination. But possibly, for an extra fee, the examining bodies would under regulations supply a candidate with the tables to which he was accustomed, pending the time when the stock tables which they provide shall be such as to satisfy every reasonable requirement.

## Obituaries.

### PROF. F. R. BARRELL, M.A.

THE unexpected death of Prof. F. R. Barrell robs the University of Bristol of one of its most notable figures. He was a man of remarkable independence of character, and possessed of striking qualities of mind and heart that attached to him a host of friends. His gifts of ready sympathy and insight will long be remembered both by the colleagues to whom he was endeared and by the students who came under his inspiring influence. We quote from *Nature*, December 9, 1915, a passage that aptly sums the main characteristics of his teaching: "Sound, especially in fundamental conceptions, rather than brilliant as a mathematician, his main interests lay in the applications of mathematics to practical problems in physics and in methods of teaching, with constant insistence on the importance of a securer basis clearly and adequately grasped. His work bore fruit in its influence on those whom he trained."

We well remember the keenness of the pleasure that was given to him by his early work in the detection by X-ray photographs of the presence of foreign bodies in cases requiring surgical aid. Little we thought that the time would come when he would himself be called upon to apply in war what had proved so successful in its application to hospital work in peace. Throughout the summer vacation of 1915 his services were valued at Netley as those of a consummate master of the simple process he had invented, and just before his death the call reached him for his further services during the approaching Christmas holidays. But it was not to be. A more peremptory summons has taken from us a comrade whose worth and charm will not readily be forgotten.

**PROF. H. W. LLOYD TANNER, F.R.S.**

The following passage is taken from the Anniversary Address, to the Royal Society, delivered by Sir William Crookes, November 30, 1915 :

“Mathematical Science has lost one of its most distinguished exponents by the death of Prof. Henry William Lloyd Tanner, to whose educational and administrative talents the University of South Wales and Monmouthshire is deeply indebted. His views on the mathematical training of students were thoroughly sound, and his services to education were by no means limited to his College or University. In addition to his teaching and administrative work at Cardiff he published many important investigations in mathematics, dealing firstly with the solution of partial differential equations, and secondly with the theory of numbers. These latter researches, which were distinguished by great ingenuity and originality, were not by any means completed when failing powers forced him to resign his professorship and cease work.”

Over the well-known signature E. B. E. appears a notice in the *Proceedings* of the London Mathematical Society (Ser. 2. vol. 14, pp. xxxvii-xxxviii), from which we extract a few felicitous passages :

“He organised well, taught devotedly, and endeared himself to colleagues and to generation after generation of students. Given a difficult administrative problem, Tanner was the man to face it ; given a wayward cutter of lectures, Tanner was the last to lose and the first to reclaim him ; given a social effort in student life or a college entertainment to be got up, his was the youthful merry soul which boyish life made its ally. . . . He was a wise protector of others, but far too unsparing of himself.”

He was respected for his intellectual honesty by all who knew him, and endeared to his many friends, no less by his geniality and ready wit, than by the inexhaustible sympathy of his unselfish nature.

## THE WORK OF A LOCAL BRANCH.

BY THE LATE PROF. W. H. H. HUDSON, M.A.

WE meet to-day \* to inaugurate a London Branch of the Mathematical Association. This is a step in a process of evolution.

The Mathematical Association is a continuation of the Association for the Improvement of Geometrical Teaching, commonly known as the A.I.G.T., founded in 1870.

I did not join the Association till 1883, but some of its earliest reports are in my possession ; to these I shall refer

It owed its existence to a profound wide-spread dissatisfaction with the lack of geometrical knowledge, and still more the absence of geometrical power, displayed by students who had passed through the ordinary school course of Euclid.

The first report, in January 1871, shows that Dr. Hirst was President ; Archdeacon Wilson and Dr. Joshua Jones, Vice-Presidents ; Dr. Wormell, Treasurer ; Messrs. Levett and MacCarthy, Secretaries. There appears also a list of 12 Local Secretaries ; this foreshadows what is going on now, the formation of local branches.

\* 27th November, 1909.