

## CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR SIR,

It has been suggested to me that I was unjust to Mr. Jones in my review (vol. x. p. 321) of his useful *First Course of Statistics* when I raised objection to a remark on birth and death rates. His statement is correct as it stands if he includes, as he very probably does, in the "law of increase" of "capital accumulating at compound interest" the cases where there is no increase or a decrease, and if he assumes the conditions have been continuous in the past to reach constancy. I apologise to him if, as I fear, I have been unfair, and to readers of the *Gazette* for my inefficiency.—Yours truly,

W. P. ELDERTON.

Nov. 1921.

## YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

THE Annual Meeting of the Branch was held on 3rd December at University House, Leeds. Professor W. P. Milne of Leeds University, Rev. A. V. Billen of Leeds Grammar School, and Mrs. Pochin, Thoresby High School, Leeds, were re-elected President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively for another year; and in place of Miss Greene, Miss Cull and Mr. Blacklock, who retire from the Executive Committee this year, there were elected Miss Stephen of the Girls' High School, Leeds, Miss Sykes of Chapel Allerton High School, Leeds, and Dr. Brodetsky of Leeds University.

An address was given by Dr. Cargill Knott, Reader in Applied Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, on the life and work of Professor, P. G. Tait, to whom Dr. Knott was formerly assistant. Dr. Knott commenced with an account of the circumstances which led to the selection of Mr. Tait as Professor at Edinburgh, in which position he proved himself one of the clearest and best of lecturers. He also showed how Professor Tait's fondness for golf suggested to him many problems and led to new discoveries in the dynamics of projectiles; and though the professor's theories and his amateur efforts at the construction of newer types of golf clubs did not recommend themselves to the professionals, yet their truth is now universally recognised and their principles applied in present-day clubs. The account of the visit of Helmholtz to Professor Tait led Dr. Knott to describe many of the personal habits and character of the professor, of whom we gained a new view which could never have been gained from his books and which perhaps could have been given us only by one who knew him as intimately as did Dr. Knott. The account of his controversies with Tyndall led Dr. Knott to quote some of the verses of Maxwell, who, like Lord Kelvin, was a close friend and collaborator of Professor Tait. The address was described by Professor Milne, in proposing a vote of thanks as the best lecture of the kind without exception which he had listened to. A most interesting and instructive meeting concluded with tea.

## THE PILLORY.

A piece of work can be done by  $A$  and  $B$  in 4 days, by  $A$  and  $C$  in 6 days, and by  $B$  and  $C$  in 12 days; find in what time the work can be done by each working separately. (Middle Grade Algebra Paper, 1921, Intermediate Board for Ireland.)

Two other questions in this paper contained misprints.

S. J. N. MACKINLAY.

## ERRATUM.

P. 379, l. 15, for "rationelles" read "rationnelles."