

Thus if two triangles RST , XYZ have been proved congruent by using the three-side case of congruence, the last line appears thus :

$$\triangle RST \equiv \triangle XYZ. \quad (\text{S.S.S.})$$

If the triangles have $RS/XY = ST/YZ = TR/ZX$, the last line is

$$\triangle RST \text{ and } \triangle XYZ \text{ are similar.} \quad (\text{S.S.S.})$$

In the same way, in

$$\triangle RST \equiv \triangle XYZ \quad (\text{S.A.S.})$$

and

$$\triangle RST \text{ and } \triangle XYZ \text{ are similar.} \quad (\text{S.A.S.})$$

S.A.S. is quite clear, and there is no possibility of doubt whether we are dealing with congruent or similar triangles. Again, “ $\triangle RST$ and $\triangle XYZ$ are similar (A.A.A.)” is perfectly clear.

What would be very useful would be some accepted symbol for “is similar to”

Yours truly,

A. W. SIDDONS.

To the Editor of the *Mathematical Gazette*.

SIR,—I am fully in agreement with Mr. Tuckey’s letter in the December *Gazette*. My own reference symbols, however, are :

for congruence

S A S

A S A

A A S

S S S

R S S

A S S (ambiguous)

for similarity

S A S :

A A :

S S S :

The sign for ratio (:) stands out more clearly if no full stops are used, so that we write

S A S, not S.A.S.,

S A S :, not S.A.S. :

Yours truly,

L. LINES.

ON A REVIEW

To the Editor of the *Mathematical Gazette*.

DEAR SIR,—We note in the review of our *Modern School Arithmetic* in the December *Gazette* the statement :

“In spite of this attention to the degree of accuracy, the authors obtain on p. 210 by the use of four-figure logarithm tables £115 15s. 3d. as the amount of £100 in 3 years at 5% compound interest.”

This statement is quite untrue. In fact, we say on p. 210 :

“ $\log A = \log 100 + 3 \log 1.05$.

Using four-figure tables $A = £115.8$.

Amount = £115 16s.

By direct calculation without logs, $A = £115 15s. 3d.$; and we go on to point out that seven-figure tables would be necessary for practical calculation of interests by this method.

With regard to the remark that the mil method of decimalising money to three places is given without warning of a lurking danger, we would refer

F.C.B. to pp. 101, 102, where the exact error is indicated and an example is worked out showing the correction required when a sum of money, decimalised to three places, is multiplied by 1000.

Yours truly,

R. N. HAYGARTH,
E. V. SMITH.

To the Editor of the *Mathematical Gazette*.

DEAR SIR,—We notice with regret that in the review of our book *A School Arithmetic* we are stated “to give the mil method of decimalising money to three places without any warning of a lurking danger”; in fact this danger is pointed out on page 157 of our book.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN S. CHANNON,
A. McL. SMITH.

To the Editor of the *Mathematical Gazette*.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—I should like without hesitation to apologise to the authors of *A School Arithmetic* (Messrs. Channon and McLeish Smith) and of a *Modern School Arithmetic* (Messrs. Haygarth and Smith) for some passages which I wrote in reviewing their books. They are:

(i) Both give the mil method of decimalising money to 3 places without any warning of a lurking danger.

(ii) The authors of the *Modern Arithmetic* obtain by the use of 4-figure logs £115 15s. 3d. as the amount of £100 in 3 years at 5% C.I.

With regard to (i): in the *School Arithmetic* a warning is inserted at the end of the chapter, and in the *Modern Arithmetic* the Exercises on 3-place work are followed by methods for obtaining the full decimal with exercises on them.

With regard to (ii): the authors get £115 16s. by 4-figure logs, and add, “By direct calculation without logs $A = £115\ 15s.\ 3d.$ ”

Yours sincerely,

F C. BOON

1250. The minimum of national celibacy (ascertained by dividing the number of males in the community by the number of females and taking the quotient as the number of wives or husbands permitted to each person) is secured in England (where the quotient is 1) by the institution of monogamy.—G. B. Shaw, *The Revolutionist's Handbook*. [Per Mr. G. P. Rawlings.]

1251. (Suggested by Gleaning 1225). The father of a new student when bringing him to the University, after calling to see the Professor, drew his assistant on one side and besought him to tell him what his son must do that he might stand well with the Professor. “You want your son to stand weel with the Professorr?” asked MacFarlane. “Yes.” “Weel, then, he must just have a guid bellyful o’ mathematics”!—S. P. Thompson, *Life of Lord Kelvin*, p. 420. [Per Professor G. N. Watson.]

1252. For the harmony of the World is made manifest in Form and Number, and the heart and soul and all the poetry of Natural Philosophy are embodied in the concept of mathematical beauty. A greater than Verhaeren had this in mind when he told of ‘the golden compasses, prepared in God’s eternal store’ Sir D’Arcy Thompson, *Growth and Form*. [Per Mr. A. F. Mackenzie.]