CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of the *Mathematical Gazette*

Mathematics in Ghana

DEAR SIR,—Your readers may like to know something of the move-
ment towards new topics and methods in mathematics teaching in
Ghana.

After its Easter conference of 1963, the Mathematical Association of
Ghana set up a Working Party to discuss teaching and examination
syllabuses, and to instigate experiments. This committee has published
notes for lessons on new topics suitable for first forms in Secondary
Schools, and some of these have been tried and discussed at two Day
Conferences. It has also recommended that a start should be made on a
special School Certificate syllabus for a group of schools, and three
schools, Achimota, Prempeh College and Mfantsipim have agreed to
begin teaching for this in September 1964. A two-year introductory
course will be constructed in such a way that the following two years of
the four-year course could either be completely new (as with some of the
new courses now being run in England), or more orthodox, leading to the
present " alternative " syllabus, a unified course similar to that of the
Cambridge Board.

Over the Christmas holidays the Institute of Education held a course
run by Mrs E. M. Williams for Training College tutors. This introduced
new ideas to the tutors, in the hope that they would pass some to
their students and so to the Primary Schools. This course created
great interest and it is hoped that next year a similar course will be run
for Secondary School teachers.

The background in Ghana is very different from that in England,
since children have few toys, generally none other than a football, and
up to now there has been little practical work in Primary Schools.
Hence students develop a system of learning by rote, always with
examinations in view. There is some quite good ability leading up to
high results in " O " and " A " level, but the students are very poor at
any application. This shows itself especially in drawing, mensuration,
and later in Mechanics.

It is hoped to start to remedy this by making the first two years'
course, proposed by the group of schools referred to above, as practical
as possible. One of the new English books will be used by the teachers,
but texts for the pupils will be written consisting mostly of instructions
for things to be done, and short notes on the important things to be
remembered.

There remains a shortage of teachers here, but a good welcome is
given to expatriates in schools, both by colleagues and students. For
those who are older and have experience this can prove enlivening, and
for those younger with knowledge of new work and desire to experiment

there is a fertile field. We should be glad to give details to anyone who considered coming out here for a contract of three or four years.

Yours faithfully,

K. S. SNELL (Chairman of Working Party.)

M. C. MITCHELMORE (Secretary)

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THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION

The fundamental aim of the Mathematical Association is to promote good methods of Mathematical teaching. Intending members of the Association are requested to communicate with one of the Secretaries. The subscription to the Association is now 30s. per annum and is due on January 1st. Each member receives a copy of the *Mathematical Gazette* and a copy of each new Report as it is issued.

Change of address should be notified to the Membership Secretary at Gordon House. If copies of the *Gazette* fail to reach a member for lack of such notification, duplicate copies can be supplied only at the published price. If change of address is the result of a change of appointment, the Membership Secretary will be glad to be informed.

Subscriptions should be paid to the Hon. Treasurer of the Mathematical Association.

The **Library** of the Mathematical Association is housed in the University Library, Leicester.

Correspondence for the **Problem Bureau** should be addressed to Mr. G. A. Garreau, 90 Wyatt Park Rd., London, S.W.2.

The address of the Association and of the Hon. Treasurer and Secretaries is **Gordon House, 29 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.**

The arrangements for *The Mathematical Gazette* are as follows:

Mr. J. K. Backhouse deals with general business of the Editorial Board, addressed to him c/o The Mathematical Association, Gordon House, 29 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.

Dr. H. M. Cundy, Greenhill House, Sherborne, Dorset, is the Assistant Editor responsible for class-room notes, correspondence, gleanings, notices and articles on the teaching of mathematics, and such material should be sent direct to him. Articles, mathematical notes, reviews and all other matter for publication should (subject to the next paragraph) be sent to Dr. Maxwell at Queens' College, Cambridge

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