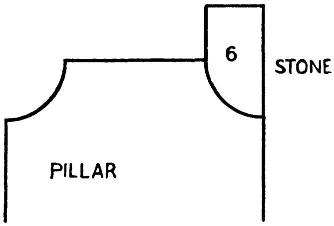
Pieter's Church at Leiden. With the help of Miss Le Poole I have succeeded in finding out some points, which will surely interest you. We have discovered that Ludolph's grave was exchanged for another grave by his widow, Dec. 31st, 1610. In the year 1626, Aug. 10th, the grave was sold by the Church-masters to Jonkheer Christoffel van Sac, and afterwards to Mr. Adriaen van Hogeveen (1718). According to the archives, Ludolph's first grave was nr 6 in the 'High Choir'. Now, after a long search, I have found a piece of a tombstone there, *carrying the number* 6, *but nothing else.* Part of this stone has been cut off so as to fit to one of the great pillars of the Church, in this way :



For this reason I doubt if it will be worth while to turn the stone upside-down ; for, in the most favourable case, you will find only part of van Ceulen's epitaph, and certainly not the whole of it.

I shall be very glad to help you further if you want so. In this case I would like you to give me further directions. I regret that I shall not be in town during the coming School Holidays.

Yours sincerely,

C. DE JONG."

It is presumably through some error in the archives that van Ceulen's widow is recorded as having exchanged his grave on the same day on which, according to his epitaph, he was "denatus", or "disborn".

I hope that I may speak for all members of the Mathematical Association, not only in passing a vote of censure on the Vandals who destroyed such a treasure, but even more in thanking Dr. de Jong most heartily for his co-operation in solving the mystery of its disappearance.

Yours truly,

W. HOPE-JONES.

23rd March, 1938.

"A WEIGHTY MATTER".

To the Editor of the *Mathematical Gazette.*

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Fairthorne's interesting letter suggests the question why textbook writers tend to hold the Slug in contempt. I believe the answer to be simple, though silly. The name "slug" sounds idiotic and unscientific. If the inventor of the British Engineer's Unit of Mass had called it a B.E.M. he might have secured more respectful treatment in the textbooks. Although one of the condemned class who write textbooks, I have much sympathy with taking as the fundamentals "the directly perceived qualities of length, time and force". To do so has one advantage so obvious that I have never seen it mentioned. It divides the subjects so nicely. Kinematics deals with length and time; Statics deals with length and force; while Dynamics—or, as some would have it, Kinetics—confesses itself the most complicated of the three, since it deals with length, time and force.

Yours truly,

C. O. TUCKEY.

To the Editor of the *Mathematical Gazette.*

DEAR SIR,—R.C. has written an appreciative and, in the main, careful review * of the two volumes of lectures which I published in China: *Functions of Real Variables* and *Functions of a Complex Variable.* He has done a service in calling attention to the error in formulating the theorem on p. 93 of the *R.V.* The Theorem was intended to read: "Every infinite point set contains an infinite denumerable point set." The proof applies to this theorem, and after the proof is given, the theorem as stated forms a useful exercise. A misprint in the review occurs near the bottom of p. 434; R.C.'s equations should read:

$$\frac{dx}{X}=\frac{dy}{Y}=\frac{dz}{Z}=\dots .$$

One other slip occurs near the bottom of p. 435. The explanation of a function into a Laurent Series, given on p. 152 of the *C.V.*, last line, is general, and is *not* restricted, as the reviewer asserts, to the case that the function has an isolated essential singularity.

The reviewer's strictures on my application of Darboux's Theorem to the conformal map defined by the elliptic integral of the first kind, *C.V.*, p. 168, are, however, unwarranted. My proof is correct. The reviewer points out quite correctly that Darboux's Theorem does not apply without further restrictions to regions that are not finite. In fact, in the larger book, *Funktionentheorie*, vol. 1 (1928), p. 400, I gave these conditions explicitly. In the present lectures I developed only so much as is needed for the immediate purpose. The upper half of the z-plane shall be transformed conformally on the interior of a circle, the axis of reals going over in a one-to-one manner and continuously into the circumference, and the map being continuous on the boundary:

$$z'=\phi(z).$$

* *Mathematical Gazette*, vol. XXI (1937), pp. 433-436.

The function defined by the integral :

$$w=\int_0^z \frac{dt}{\sqrt{(1-t^2)(1-k^2t^2)}} \quad (0<k<1)$$

is now considered in this circle :

$$w=f(z').$$

Obviously $f(z')$ is analytic within the circle and continuous on the boundary, and it is further shown in all detail that the circumference goes over in a one-to-one manner and continuously into the perimeter of a rectangle in the w-plane. Thus all the conditions of Darboux's Theorem in its restricted form are satisfied for the circle and the rectangle. Hence the interior and circumference of the circle go over into the interior and perimeter of the rectangle in the desired manner. It remains merely to transform back from the circle to the half-plane. This completes the proof.

R.C. now says that the same reasoning would show that the function

$$w=\int_0^{z^3} \frac{dt}{\sqrt{(1-t^2)(1-k^2t^2)}}$$

carries the upper half-plane over into a rectangle, since this function also transforms the axis of reals in the z-plane in a one-to-one manner and continuously into the axis of reals in the w-plane. True, but the other condition, namely, that this function of z be analytic in the upper half of the z-plane, is not fulfilled ; for at the point $z=w$, where $w=e^{2\pi i/3}$, this latter function has a branch point. Thus the example which is cited to confound my proof fails to fulfil the conditions of the theorem.

Very truly yours,

William Fogg Osgood.

Harvard University,

2nd February, 1938.

THE ASSES' BRIDGE.

To the Editor of the *Mathematical Gazette.*

Sir,—When one recalls early youth it brings thoughts of a Society for the Improvement of Mathematical Teaching. One might begin from the Abacus as operated by a governess ; or from the multiplication table which, when one thinks of it, is a far more complex table of double entry than most of such tables in the modern advanced mathematic, yet somehow we all, whether clever or dull, had to conquer it. But the famous Asses' Bridge has special claims. One remembers that in improved Euclids it was simply abolished by the device of turning over the isosceles triangle in space like a pancake so as to cover itself upside-down. Yet that was hardly respectful to the great Greek originals : and indeed it shocked the purists. But why was it forbidden? Euclid has now disappeared, gone out of sight like the other texts, mostly more concise, once provided for