

## THE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE.

The appended letter has been addressed to the Chairman of the Society from the Chairman of the Nomenclature and Technical Terms Sub-Committee of this Society and the Engineering Standards Committee:—

27, Buckingham Gate,  
London, S.W.1,  
March 22nd, 1918.

The Chairman,  
The Aeronautical Society.

SIR,—Your Nomenclature Committee has in the course of preparing lists of terms for common adoption in the scientific work dealing with the general dynamical theory of the aeroplane, come to the view that the value of this work would be very greatly extended by the inclusion in the list, which will eventually become officially recognised, of a system of symbols to represent the mathematical conceptions involved. This matter was mentioned to the American delegation, which deputed three members to attend at one of our committee meetings, and it also met the approval in principle of the Joint Conference of Allied Delegates, summoned by the Engineering Standards Committee.

The system of symbols and notation recommended by your Nomenclature Committee for adoption is the one which is unquestionably most widely used both in this country and in the United States, and it is that one which was first employed in the publications of the Advisory Committee and is employed by the National Physical Laboratory and the Royal Aircraft Factory.

The Committee desire that I should, however, draw your attention and that of the Council of the Society to the work of a distinguished member of the Society, Professor Bryan, who in the course of what we believe to be the earliest application of standard mathematical methods to the consideration of the stability of the aeroplane, used a different system of symbols, which has not been so widely adopted. Your Committee is of opinion that the mathematical method underlying both systems of notation is definitely due to Professor Bryan, and although it is no function of the Nomenclature Committee to concern itself directly with matters of priority, it expressed the desire that the attention of the Council should be drawn to this matter in the hope that the Council would see fit to recognise Professor Bryan's priority.

The Committee considers that the cause of standardisation and the attendant advancement of the scientific study of the dynamical problems of the aeroplane is of such great importance that the course which it has adopted in selecting that system of symbols which is much the most widely used, is fully warranted, and they feel this, notwithstanding that they have paid serious attention to the valuable contribution made by Professor Bryan to the AERONAUTICAL JOURNAL on this subject.

Faithfully yours,  
(Signed) MERVYN O'GORMAN,  
*Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee,*  
*Lieut.-Col.*

This letter was considered at a meeting of the Council of the Society on March 26th. In the opinion of the Council the action taken by the Sub-Committee was to be approved, and the Council now desire to place on record their full recognition of Prof. Bryan's priority in the investigation involved.

W. BARNARD FARADAY,  
*Secretary.*