reading of the percentage humidity. $I$, $I$ are pointers set at the
dry and wet bulb readings by means of pieces sliding on the rods
$A$, $B$ and joined together by a link $C$, which actuates by a slot the
scale $F$ (movable in the vertical) on which the percentage humidity
is read at the pointer $D$.

Let $t_1$, $t_2$ be the temperatures of the dry and wet bulbs respec-
tively, $t_3$ the dew point; let $v_1$, $v_3$ be the vapour tensions of saturated
air at $t_1$, $t_3$ and $H$ the percentage humidity. Then the approximate
theory is as follows:

$$t_2 = t_1 - c(t_2 - t_1) \quad (c \text{ constant})$$

(According to Glaisher $c$ varies with $t_1$; this is taken into account
by the inclination of the rods).

Experiment gives

$$v_1 = a10^{t_1} \quad \text{and} \quad v_3 = a10^{t_3}$$

also by definition

$$H = 100v_3/v_1$$

so that

$$H = 100 \cdot 10^{-c(t_2 - t_1)}$$

$$\log H = 2 - c(t_2 - t_1)$$

$$= 2 - HK.$$ 

This relation shows that the humidity scale is that of an
inverted slide rule.

WALTER JAMIESON.

**Geometrical Illustrations of a Formula in the Differential Calculus.**—In this note the formula

$$\frac{1}{PT} = \frac{d}{ds} (\log y)$$

is illustrated for a few curves.

For any curve

$$PT = ycosecPTN = y \frac{ds}{dy}$$

from which the above formula follows. Only two variables are
involved: the $y$ axis may be excluded. Also the formula holds for
oblique axes.
1. Parabola $y^2 = 4ax$. (Fig. 1)

\[
\frac{2}{y} \frac{dy}{ds} = \frac{1}{x} \frac{dx}{ds}.
\]

\[
\therefore \quad \frac{2}{PT} = \frac{1}{PY}
\]

whence $TA = AN$. 

Fig. 1

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(197)
2. Hyperbola $xy = \text{const.}$ (Fig. 2)
\[
\frac{1}{x} \frac{dx}{ds} + \frac{1}{y} \frac{dy}{ds} = 0.
\]
\[\therefore \quad PT = -Pt.\]

3. Conic $\beta \gamma = ka^2$, having $AB$, $AC$ tangents and $BC$ chord of contact. (Fig. 3)
\[
\frac{1}{PM} + \frac{1}{PN} = \frac{2}{PL}
\]
\[
(MN, PL) = -1.
\]

4. Cubic Hyperbola $\alpha \beta \gamma = \alpha' \beta' \gamma'$ through $P(\alpha_1, \beta_1, \gamma_1)$. (Fig. 4)
\[-2PL = \text{harmonic mean between } PM, PN.\]

Draw $AQ$ the fourth harmonic mean to $AB, AP, AC$ and a parallel to $BC$ at three times the distance $P$ has to $BC$. The intersection $U$ of these lines gives the tangent at $P$, for
\[PU = \text{harmonic mean of } PM, PN = -2PL\]

5. Similar results apply to curves $\alpha \gamma = k\beta \delta : OP^2 = kPU \cdot PU'$
(where $O$ is a fixed point and $PU, PU'$ are perpendiculars on fixed straight lines); $27ay^2 = 4x^2; (x + y + z)^3 = 6mxyz$, etc.

R. F. Davis.

**Geometrical Proof of a Trigonometrical Identity.**—
The following method of proof of the identity,
\[1 - \cos^2 A - \cos^2 B - \cos^2 C - 2\cos A\cos B\cos C = 0\]