

## CONTENTS

	Page
<b>Editorial</b>	3
	<i>P. Fitzpatrick</i>
<b>Irish Mathematical Society</b>	4
Meetings	8
Membership Supplement	9
Personal Items	10
Obituary - Professor J.R. Timoney	<i>T.J. Laffey and S. O'Brien</i>
<b>Articles</b>	
Numerical Methods for Singularly Perturbed Differential Equations	14
Aspects of Hipparcos	<i>E. O'Riordan</i>
Lofting the Viaduct with a Minimum of Effort	25
What is a Probabilistic Proof?	<i>W.G. Tuohy</i>
Convexity and Subharmonic Functions	36
CAYLEY: Group Theory by Computer	<i>G. Kelly</i>
	40
	<i>P. McGill</i>
	48
	<i>S. Gardiner</i>
	56
	<i>P. Fitzpatrick</i>
<b>Mathematics Education</b>	
On Teaching Matrix Algebra by Computer	64
Undergraduate Projects in Group Theory: Automorphism Groups	<i>R. Critchley and G.S. Lessells</i>
	69
	<i>T. Porter</i>
	73
<b>Books Received</b>	
<b>Book Reviews</b>	
The Boole-De Morgan Correspondence 1842-1864	75
The One-Dimensional Heat Equation	<i>P.D. MacHale</i>
Advanced Engineering Mathematics	77
	<i>J.J. Grannell</i>
	82
	<i>F. Holland</i>
	86
<b>Problem Page</b>	

## EDITORIAL

At the ordinary meeting of 20 December 1985 the Society decided to change the name of the Newsletter to the Irish Mathematical Society Bulletin. This move reflects a widespread perception that the former title did not do justice to the substance of the publication which has been developed over the past few years. It was also decided to continue the present numbering so that this issue maintains the sequence as number 16.

Perhaps a more significant change in circumstances arises as a result of a review by the NBS7 of its printing arrangements. In discussion with the Society it was agreed that the Board would print two issues in 1986, but they did not give any firm commitment to printing further issues. It should be observed that the NBS7 prints the Newsletter/Bulletin free of charge to the Society. The Society Membership Fee does not cover any of the running costs apart from typing. Therefore, any attempt to make the publication self-financing would involve the introduction of a subscription fee at a level determined by the cost of commercial printing.

We bring these points to the attention of our readers in order to stimulate a debate on the role of the Newsletter/Bulletin in the activities of the IMS, the question of financing and continuation, the frequency of publication and so on. Comments and contributions in the form of letters to the Editor would be welcome.

The deadline for copy for the September issue is 30 June 1986.

*Pat Fitzpatrick*