

## EDITORIAL

At the 150th birthday celebration of the LMS, those present were given a copy of the speech of Augustus De Morgan, President, at the first meeting of the Society, January 16th, 1865. He pointed out that the new society would, inevitably, be influenced mainly by a few energetic individuals, but would come to nothing if it did not *please* the general body of members. Having reviewed previous British societies and journals and linked their failure to capture by special interests and a “preponderance of subjects of one particular kind”, he said that his desire was to see the society “*having the great bulk of its business adapted to the great bulk of its members*”<sup>1</sup>. With an emphasis on the future of mathematics, and granting that one cannot actually foresee how mathematical science will develop, he tentatively suggested some directions that deserved more attention in his day, to wit history, logic<sup>2</sup>, and (is anything new?) his desire to see elementary students think more:

“Mathematics is becoming too much of a machinery, and this is more especially the case with reference to the elementary students. They put the data of the problems into a mill and expect the result to come out ready ground at the other end. An operation which bears a close resemblance to putting in hemp seeds at one end of a machine and taking out ruffled shirts ready for use at the other end. This mode is undoubtedly exceedingly effective in producing results, but it is certainly not so the teaching the mind and in exercising thought.”

The Bulletin of the IMS has the same aim as that expressed for the LMS journals by De Morgan: to publish material of general interest to members, without limiting the areas. Members (and others) are encouraged to contribute.

In the present issue we publish a couple of surveys related to stochastic integrals and their application, a classroom note about inverse functions, as well as some reviews of books on varied pure and applied topics, and the problem page. The surveys are by Danny

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<sup>1</sup>— and clearly he was not referring to the BMI of the members!

<sup>2</sup>He referred warmly to Boole’s work.

Duffy, who gives an account from the perspective of an experienced practitioner of the kind of numerical methods used in finance, and by Pat Muldowney, who gives a gentle introduction to the basic issues around stochastic and other integrals, giving due credit to his mentor Ralph Henstock, whose fundamental work on integration deserves to be better-known in Ireland. Henstock was for many years Professor of Pure Mathematics at the University of Ulster in Coleraine. I can testify from personal experience that he was a tolerant, kindly and hospitable fellow. Both Duffy and Muldowney have published books which may be consulted by readers who wish to learn more about the material outlined.

The next main scientific meeting of the Society will take place in UCC, on 27-28 August, and will form a part of the Boole Centenary celebrations there.

The IMS Committee has adopted revised guidelines for conference organisers who wish to apply for support. These may be found at the IMS website. Organisers are reminded that reports should be submitted to the Bulletin by December, in good time for the Winter issue.

The Treasurer asked me to draw the attention of members aged over 65 to the fact that a reduced subscription rate applies. See page 2, and contact him to take advantage of this.

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