

reference to *any* other direction—the other theorems, common perpendicularity, equality of alternate angles, &c., are easily deduced.

I was pleased to read Dr. Richardson's letter, as it showed that others were working in the same direction as myself. Part of my time is devoted to teaching mathematics at the School of Mines in this town. This technical institution is attended in the evening by students who during the day are serving their apprenticeship in mechanical workshops. Although geometry is a subject which readily appeals to them, I have learnt the futility of presenting it to them under the garb of Euclid. Even if they had the courage to face the schoolboy's drilling in Euclid, I could not conscientiously ask them to devote their energies to a labour so unremunerative. I, for one, hope that Prof. Perry's efforts to harmonise the teaching of geometry and other branches of mathematics with the needs of engineering students will bear fruit, and that before the lapse of any considerable time.

W. R. JAMIESON.

Gawler, South Australia, August 27.

Symbol for Partial Differentiation.

DR. MUIR'S symbols (p. 520) may be very suitable for manuscripts or the blackboard, but the expense of printing them would be prohibitive. No book in which such symbols were used to any extent could possibly pay. On the other hand, the symbol $(dE/dv)_p$ can always be introduced into a paragraph of letterpress without using a justification or a vinculum; and this very much lessens the expense of printing.

A. B. BASSET.

Fledborough Hall, Holyport, Berks, September 26.

Bipedal Locomotion in Lizards.

I HAVE recently observed bipedal locomotion (p. 551) in the case of *Calotes versicolor* in similar circumstances to those noted by Mr. Ernest Green, and have reason to believe that it also occurs in the case of several other Agamoid lizards that I have watched in the Malay Peninsula, though their movements are too rapid to admit of certainty. *Liolepis bellii*, however, certainly uses all four legs when in rapid motion, holding its tail in the air.

N. ANNANDALE.

Lochbuie, Isle of Mull, N.B., September 25.

A Possible Meteor Shower on October 4.

ON Saturday last, October 4, at 7.45 p.m., I noticed the following phenomenon:—The sky was clouded entirely, when, happening to look to the west-north-west, I saw a well-defined streak of light, starting on a level with some trees in a small wood and moving roughly horizontally towards the south for an angular distance of about 30°. This was followed at about 3-second intervals by another and another, until I counted 43 of them. After this the interval became greater, and about 8 o'clock the phenomenon ceased. It appeared to be like a meteor shower partially hidden by a thickness of cloud. Assuming this to be true, I am afraid the radiant point was hidden by the trees before mentioned. The elevation would be about 15°. Perhaps some of your readers more favourably situated may be able to throw further light on the matter.

G. PERCY BAILEY.

Stonyhurst College, Blackburn, October 6.

FALL OF A METEORIC STONE NEAR CRUMLIN (CO. ANTRIM) SEPTEMBER 13.

THE writer of this note visited the scene of the fall of this meteorite yesterday evening, September 20, and learned that it occurred at about 10.30 a.m. (local time) on the date in question. The body is almost 10 lb. in weight and of a more or less irregular outline, and of the usual meteoric appearance. It bears strong evidence of fusion, shines with a metallic lustre on one side and is apparently truncated, a fragment—say about a third—having fractured off in its descent through the atmosphere. There is also a well-marked line or two of fracture still visible. The evidence at present is that it fell quite perpendicularly, there being no trace of slope or inclination in the hole, about 13–15 inches deep,

NO. 1719, VOL. 66]

which it made on striking the soil. Mr. Walker, of Cross-hill, on whose holding it fell, says it was quite hot at first, and felt warm for almost an hour afterwards. Of course, a good deal of interest and local curiosity is naturally aroused, the usual query being "Where did it come from?" Possibly the data given above may help to furnish an answer to this question, although hardly yet sufficient to enable an orbit or trajectory to be computed for this—the third meteorite which has fallen in the British Isles within recent years. The occurrence was accompanied by the usual rumblings or detonations, but the estimations of the duration are here, as is usual in other similar instances, untrustworthy.

Crumlin is almost due west from Belfast, distance about 10 miles, lat. 54° 36' N., long. 6° 12' W.

W. H. MILLIGAN.

26 Cooke Street, Belfast, September 21.

[The delay in the publication of Mr. Milligan's letter has resulted from our sending it to Mr. L. Fletcher, F.R.S., who has furnished the following interesting notes upon the meteorite.—Editor, NATURE.]

During the past fortnight it has been stated in various Irish and English newspapers that a meteoric stone had been seen to reach the earth near the village of Crumlin, a few miles distant from Belfast, on Saturday, September 13, when the meeting of the British Association in that city was in mid course.

Such reports of meteoritic falls are by no means infrequent and are almost always based on mere misapprehension of fact; indeed, it is very seldom that a stone believed to be a meteorite is found on critical examination to have any valid claim to a celestial origin. As lately as last week, for instance, a supposed meteorite was sent to the Natural History Museum from Shropshire for inspection, and yet was undoubtedly a product of our own earth.

As twenty-one years had passed away since the fall of a meteoric stone in the British Isles and thirty-seven years since the fall of a meteoric stone in Ireland, to a person in London it seemed more likely that the Crumlin fall was mythical than that a heavenly body should have fallen after so long an interval near to the very city where so many men of science were gathered together; and it seemed in any case to be a matter of certainty that before the news of the fall had reached London the stone must already have passed into the possession of a private, perhaps foreign, collector.

Last week, impressed by the circumstantial character of the reports (especially that sent by Mr. Milligan, of Belfast, for publication in NATURE), and desiring further information, I telegraphed from South Kensington to Mr. Andrew Walker, on whose farm the stone was said to have fallen; in reply he stated that the stone was still in his possession and that it had not been examined by anyone who had made a special study of meteorites. Though in doubt as to the advisability of so long a journey on the basis of such evidence as was at the moment available, I left at once for Crumlin, and was relieved on arrival to find that the journey had not been made in vain; the stone was undoubtedly a true meteorite. That a high degree of excitement had been aroused in the district by the reports of a meteoritic fall will be manifest from the circumstance that during the interview with Mr. Walker no fewer than four different sets of visitors, some in carriages, some on foot, called to see the stone and the place where it had struck the earth; each visitor was allowed to handle the specimen and feel its weight. It was being stated in the village, but Mr. Walker said it was an exaggeration, that as many as 300 people had been to the farm in the course of a single day. Although Mr. Walker had been told by some of his visitors that it would be unlucky for him to part with a gift sent to him direct from heaven, he perceived that the stone would be best preserved elsewhere