

Some Suggestions in Mathematical Terminology.

By R. F. MUIRHEAD, M.A.

[ABSTRACT.]

1. To designate the line which bisects at right angles the join of two points A, B, the term *axis of A, B* is proposed. Reasons:—(1) brevity; (2) avoidance of the suggestion that the line joining AB is necessary in constructing it (important in teaching Geometrical Drawing); (3) two points, like any other pair of circles, have a *radical axis* which is the line in question.

(2) To designate the tangent of the angle of inclination to the horizontal, or to the *x*-axis, or to any straight line or direction of reference: *gradient* is proposed. Reasons:—(1) Present Engineering usage; (2) as compared with the word *slope* it has a more definite suggestion of the way it is to be measured, *i.e.*, by trigonometrical tangent, not by angular magnitude; (3) already in use by several authorities.

(3) For unit of *moment of a force* on the British system of units: *pound-foot*, and *poundal-foot* for the gravitational and absolute unit respectively.

(4) For inverse trigonometrical and hyperbolic functions, *nis*, *soc*, *nat*, *toc*, *ces*, *cesoc*, *nish*, *soch*, *nath*, *toch*, *cesh*, *cesoch*, in place of \sin^{-1} , \cos^{-1} , etc., and of the continental *arc sin*, *arc sin hyp*, etc.