

References

1. G. T. Woods, Chemically, the same or different?, *Mathl Gaz.* **60**, 247–256 (No. 414, December 1976).
2. Robert E. Greenwood, The numbers of isomers of the alkanes and the aliphatic alcohols, *Mathl Gaz.* **61**, 220–223 (No. 417, October 1977).
3. R. W. Payne, The numbers of structurally isomeric monohydric alcohols and paraffins, *School Science Review* **51**, 374–378 (1969).

G. L. WILSON

39 Osborne Court, Osborne Road, Windsor, Berks. SL4 3EP

Correspondence

University interviews

DEAR EDITOR,

I have read your correspondence with interest on the techniques of interviewing candidates for places in Mathematics Departments of universities. In Southampton, we naturally feel that John Hersee's suggestion—that candidates should be informed about what type of interview to expect—is a very good one, because we already do follow his suggestion in the letters that we send out. Some time ago we made a policy decision that we would not ask technical mathematical questions of candidates, but that we should simply use the interview as a way to discuss their motivation, and then to guide them and advise them about the best choices to make either here or elsewhere. Several of us with experience of asking mathematical questions in interviews found that earlier method to be highly unsatisfactory, partly because it affected candidates from different backgrounds in quite unpredictable ways.

Yours sincerely,

H. B. GRIFFITHS

The University, Southampton, SO9 5NH

The vector triple product

DEAR EDITOR,

A propos your editorial note on p. 218 of the October 1977 issue, please would you add my name, and that of Dr Astin, to your list of triple product provers? Our proofs were published in **54**, 149–151 (No. 388, May 1970).

Yours sincerely,

HANS LIEBECK

Department of Mathematics, University of Keele, Staffordshire ST5 5BG

I apologise for the oversight, and am happy to make good the omission. D.A.Q.