

This Association has suffered the loss by death of one of its oldest members in the person of J. D. St. Clair Maclardy, M.A., a distinguished graduate of the University of Sydney, a well-known and faithful servant of the Education Department of this State: and who was successively lecturer in the Teachers' College, for a short period its Principal, and finally Chief Examiner.

ERRATA.

Vol. XIV, p. 16, l. 6, for a' read $a' | A |$.

p. 23, l. 14 up, for Guyaelf read myself.

THE PROBLEM.

(By courtesy of the Editor of the *Observer*.)

If right and wrong were only plus
 And minus, 'twould be well for us;
 If reckoning up the life's amount
 Were but a matter of account;
 If we were able to assess
 Virtue in Mammon's balances,
 And weigh out like a pound of tea
 Courage and faith and charity;
 If two and two were always four,
 And never less, and never more,
 In that strange sum the Master sets—
 Then one could toil, without regrets,
 To puzzle the solution out,
 And value x beyond a doubt.

But no kind axioms control
 The mathematics of the soul;
 Where definitions grow and fade,
 And postulates are patched and frayed,
 And ratios get out of hand,
 Like Alice's in Wonderland;
 And curious relativities
 Upset our decimals and π 's;
 And a 's are b 's, and odds are evens
 (The very sixes may be sevens!)
 And good and bad, and wrong and right
 Are hard to recognise at sight—
 How, in this quandary, can we
 Expect to reach the Q.E.D.?

F. H.

Observer, 1927, Dec. 11.

ROBERT WILLIAM GENESE

MAY 8, 1848—JANUARY 22, 1928
