THE MATHEMATICAL GAZETTE

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the *Mathematical Gazette.*

REFERENCE FOR SIMILAR TRIANGLES.

Sir,—The letter by Mr. Wood suggests that the symbol $\sim$ for Similarity is fairly widely used. As he stated, there is not much likelihood of confusion between the two uses of the symbol $\sim$, and its adoption in England would tend to uniformity in at least the English-speaking countries of the world. For that reason, I am prepared to withdraw my suggestion in favour of that by Mr. Wood.

It would serve a useful purpose if the Teaching Committee considered the suggestions which have so far been put forward, and others which may come along, and select the one which they think is the best. This one should then be recommended as the standard one to be adopted for England.

Yours truly,

S. INMAN.

OBTUSE ANGLING—A CATCH.

Dear Sir,—In discussing the probability that a triangle is obtuse-angled, Mr. Tuckey (Note 1408) is fishing in deep waters. May I offer him a red herring, landed with a hook baited for me by Mr. Robson?

Since a triangle cannot have more than one obtuse angle, the chance that ABC has an obtuse angle is not greater (one is tempted to say, is less, but wait!) than the sum of the chances that the individual angles are obtuse, that is, than three times the chance that C is obtuse. But if A, B are given, C is obtuse only if C is inside the circle on AB as diameter, and the chance of this is zero, since C can be anywhere in the plane.

If H is the orthocentre, the chance that HBC is obtuse-angled is zero, and therefore the chance that ABC is acute-angled is zero.

There aren't any triangles.

Yours untruly,

E. H. NEVILLE.

BUREAU FOR THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS.

This is under the direction of Mr. A. S. Gosset Tanner, M.A., 115, Radbourne Street, Derby, to whom all enquiries should be addressed, accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope for the reply. Applicants, who must be members of the Mathematical Association, should wherever possible state the source of their problems and the names and authors of the textbooks on the subject which they possess. As a general rule the questions submitted should not be beyond the standard of University Scholarship Examinations. Whenever questions from the Cambridge Mathematical Scholarship volumes are sent, it will not be necessary to copy out the question in full, but only to send the reference, *i.e.* volume, page, and number. The names of those sending the questions will not be published.

The Secretary would be glad to receive any solutions that have not yet been returned.

1299. Motorist : I have had a lot of motoring experience, so you can take it from me that if a car is travelling at 30 miles an hour, the driver is also travelling at 30 or thereabouts.—*Daily Herald*, March 23, 1939. [Per Mr. T. R. Dawson.]