

OBITUARY

Miss M. E. Bowman

Everyone who knew Miss Margaret Bowman will feel a sense of loss now that she is no longer amongst us. She was such a cheerful, unassuming person but one to whom the Association owes a great deal. As Honorary Secretary she did most valuable work from 1946–1950 and, as her successor, I valued her help and kindly advice very much. For many years she was a most efficient Treasurer of the London Branch of the Association and was a very regular attendant at its meetings.

At one time Miss Bowman did valiant work in transcribing mathematical texts and articles into Braille for Prof. Bickley but she will, of course, be better known for her book “Romance in Arithmetic”. This book is a firm favourite in all schools and colleges of education and many young people will have had their imaginations stirred by its fascinating story.

Miss Bowman’s interest in the mathematical education of young students was very marked and one that remained with her throughout her life. Her friendliness made her a delightful companion.

6 *Cherry Orchard,*
Stoke Poges, Bucks.

W. A. COOKE

REVIEWS

[By chance, this review of Miss Bowman’s book has just arrived and forms a fitting epilogue.]

Romance in Arithmetic. By M. E. Bowman. 4th edition. Pp. 128. Paperback, 12s. 6d. 1969. (University of London Press.)

A revised edition of Miss Bowman’s well-organised, clearly written and admirably illustrated book on the history of our English systems of coinage, weights and measures, time measurements, is very welcome; it has been extended in places to take note of the impending metrication. The information contained is varied, entertaining and useful. We have the perfectly logical explanation of the Midlands habit of making up flour in $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb. bags rather than in 2 lb. bags. Those contemplating a visit to Kerry are warned that in that paradise the Irish mile is likely to be 2240 yards; they are not warned that, at any rate in my opinion, the yards are sometimes Irish yards of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ English yards.