

Let  $X = (BC, B'C')$ ,  $Y = (AC, A'C')$ ,  $Z = (AB, A'B')$ ,  $B'' = (AC, OB')$ ,  $X'' = (BC, B''C')$ ,  $Z'' = (AB, A'B'')$ ; then, by Lemma 4 applied to the triangles  $ABC$  and  $A'B''C'$ , the points  $X''YZ''$  are collinear. Also  $ZABZ''$  projects from  $A'$  into  $B'OBB''$ , which projects from  $C'$  into  $XCBX''$ , and hence  $ZX, AC, Z''X''$  are concurrent in  $Y$ , that is,  $XYZ$  are collinear.

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY.

**On a Chain of Circle Theorems.**

By L. M. BROWN.

If  $P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4$  are four points on a circle  $C$ , and  $P_{234}$  is the orthocentre of triangle  $P_2 P_3 P_4$ ,  $P_{134}$  the orthocentre of triangle  $P_1 P_3 P_4$  and so on, then the quadrilateral  $P_{234} P_{134} P_{124} P_{123}$  is congruent to the quadrilateral  $P_1 P_2 P_3 P_4$ . This theorem seems to be due to Steiner (*Ges. Werke*, 1, p. 128; see H. F. Baker, *Introduction to Plane Geometry*, 1943, p. 332) and has appeared frequently since in collections of riders on the elementary circle theorems.

It is clear that  $P_{234} P_{134} P_{124} P_{123}$  lie on a circle  $C_{1234}$  equal to the original circle  $C$ . But also angle  $P_3 P_{134} P_4 = P_4 P_1 P_3 = P_4 P_2 P_3 = P_3 P_{234} P_4$  (with angles directed and equations modulo  $\pi$ ), and hence  $P_3 P_4 P_{134} P_{234}$  lie on a circle  $C_{34}$  equal to  $C$ , and which is in fact the mirror image of  $C$  in  $P_3 P_4$ . Similarly we obtain circles  $C_{12}, C_{13}, C_{14}, C_{23}, C_{24}$ , so that we have in all eight circles with four points on each. If any one of these be taken as the original circle, the same system of eight circles is obtained; if, e.g., we begin with  $P_3 P_4 P_{134} P_{234}$  on the circle  $C_{34}$ , the four orthocentres are  $P_1, P_2, P_{123}, P_{124}$  lying on  $C_{12}$  and the remaining circles are the images of  $C_{34}$  in the six sides of the quadrangle  $P_3 P_4 P_{134} P_{234}$ . Call this configuration  $K_4$ .

Let us now take a fifth point  $P_5$  on  $C$ . Then any four of  $P_1 P_2 P_3 P_4 P_5$  give a  $K_4$ . We have in fact five points  $P_1 \dots P_5$ , ten points  $P_{123} \dots P_{345}$ , a circle  $C$ , ten circles  $C_{12} \dots C_{45}$  and five circles  $C_{1234} \dots C_{2345}$ . Then the circles  $C_{1234} C_{1235} C_{1245} C_{1345} C_{2345}$  all pass through a point  $P_{12345}$ , completing a system of 16 points and 16 circles, five points on each circle and five circles through each point. We may show this by taking the circle  $C_{12}$ , e.g., on which lie the five points  $P_1 P_2 P_{123} P_{124} P_{125}$  and build up the  $K_4$ 's obtained by taking these four at a time. Use a parallel notation and write  $Q_1 = P_1, Q_2 = P_2,$

$Q_3 = P_{123}$ ,  $Q_4 = P_{124}$ ,  $Q_5 = P_{125}$ . Then by picking out orthocentres we obtain  $Q_{123} = P_3$  (i.e., the orthocentre of  $Q_1 Q_2 Q_3$  is  $P_3$ ),  $Q_{124} = P_4$ ,  $Q_{125} = P_5$ ;  $Q_{134} = P_{134}$ ,  $Q_{135} = P_{135}$  down to  $Q_{245} = P_{245}$ ; but the final  $Q$  point  $Q_{345}$  is not the final  $P$  point  $P_{345}$ . Then picking out the circles through these points,  $D = C_{12}$ ,  $D_{12} = C$ ,  $D_{13} = C_{13}$ ,  $D_{14} = C_{14}$ ,  $D_{15} = C_{15}$ ,  $D_{23} = C_{23}$ ,  $D_{24} = C_{24}$ ,  $D_{25} = C_{25}$ ;  $D_{34} = C_{1234}$ ,  $D_{35} = C_{1235}$ ,  $D_{45} = C_{1245}$ ;  $D_{1234} = C_{34}$ ,  $D_{1235} = C_{35}$ ,  $D_{1245} = C_{45}$ ,  $D_{1345} = C_{1345}$ ,  $D_{2345} = C_{2345}$ . Now through  $Q_{345}$  go  $D_{34} D_{35} D_{45} D_{1345} D_{2345}$ ; i.e. the circles  $C_{2345} C_{1345} C_{1245} C_{1235} C_{1234}$  all pass through one point  $Q_{345} = P_{12345}$  as required. It is clear that the figure obtained in this way is symmetrical; any one of the 16 circles may be taken as the original circle with the five points on it as the original points; call it  $K_5$ .

If we next take a sixth point  $P_6$  on  $C$  and form the six  $K_5$ 's by taking five points from  $P_1 \dots P_6$ , we have six points  $P_1 \dots P_6$ , 20 points  $P_{123} \dots P_{456}$ , and six points  $P_{12345} \dots P_{23456}$ . These lie on a circle  $C$ , 15 circles  $C_{12} \dots C_{56}$ , and 15 circles  $C_{1234} \dots C_{3456}$ . Then the six points  $P_{12345} \dots P_{23456}$  lie on a circle  $C_{123456}$ . This completes a symmetrical  $K_6$  of 32 points and 32 circles, six points on a circle and six circles through a point. A proof of the existence of  $C_{123456}$  on very similar lines to that given above for the existence of  $P_{12345}$  may be readily supplied by the reader.

It is now obvious that a chain of theorems may be constructed, the addition of every point  $P_i$  on  $C$  involving the existence alternately of a point and a circle, so that where there are  $n$  points  $P_i$ , there are in all  $2^{n-1}$  points and  $2^{n-1}$  circles.

We should link this chain of theorems with the long catenation begun by Wallace, de Longchamps and Clifford. (See Baker, *l.c.*, pp. 337-344, and Richmond, *Proc. Edin. Math. Soc.* 2, 6 (1939), 78 where a further bibliography is given). The chain given here is not in the normal de Longchamps' chain, but is a special case of Richmond's extension. Consider for simplicity a  $K_4$ , and let a general line  $l_1$  through  $P_1$  cut  $C_{12}$  in  $H_{12}$ ,  $C_{13}$  in  $H_{13}$ ,  $C_{14}$  in  $H_{14}$ ; let  $l_2 = H_{12} P_2$ ,  $l_3 = H_{13} P_3$ ,  $l_4 = H_{14} P_4$ ; let  $l_2 l_3$  cut in  $H_{23}$ ,  $l_2 l_4$  in  $H_{24}$ ,  $l_3 l_4$  in  $H_{34}$ . Then angle  $P_4 H_{34} P_3 = P_4 H_{14} H_{12} + H_{12} H_{13} P_3 = P_4 P_{134} P_1 + P_1 P_{134} P_3 = P_4 P_{134} P_3 \pmod{\pi}$ . Hence  $H_{34}$  lies on  $C_{34}$  and similarly  $H_{23}$  lies on  $C_{23}$  and  $H_{24}$  on  $C_{24}$ . Then if  $P_1 P_2 P_3 P_4$  and  $l_1 l_2 l_3 l_4$  be taken as the base points and lines of Richmond's extension the configuration is obtained as the 4-point case of this.

THE ROYAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE,  
GLASGOW.