

Jordan's demonstration of the necessary condition. Finally, I should like to point out (since a reader of the review might assume otherwise) that my discussion to which reference is made deals with the sufficient condition only, as I considered that the necessary condition had been correctly established by Spurgeon and others.

Yours faithfully,
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2 January 1954

(To the Editors of the Journal of the Institute of Actuaries)

DEAR SIRs,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity of commenting on the letter which Mr Greville has written to you. I should also like to express my appreciation of the courtesy which Mr Greville has extended to me by sending me, in advance, a draft of his letter.

I should be very sorry to think that anything I said in my review was unjust either to Prof. Jordan or to Mr Greville. However, I still think that the wording on page 29 of the book gives the student the impression that the l_{25} individuals who survive to age 25 out of the $l_{[20]}$ lives at age 20 are identical with the l_{25} individuals who survive to age 25 out of the $l_{[22]}$ at age 22. I must admit that in my reference to the problem of equality of policy values I did not express myself very clearly; as Mr Greville points out, the necessary condition cannot be proved sufficient without some form of induction. What I should have said was that the additional proof which Prof. Jordan introduces with the words 'We proceed by induction' could have been avoided.

I should like to add that these two matters, on which Mr Greville has so nobly taken up the cudgels on Prof. Jordan's behalf, are very small ones. The general impression which I experienced on reading the book (and which I hope I conveyed by my review) was one of admiration for the painstaking thoroughness with which the author demonstrated all the proofs. However, when a reviewer sees (or thinks that he sees) small blemishes in an otherwise excellent book, it is his duty to draw attention to them. I have no doubt that *Life and Other Contingencies* contains blemishes too, and that I shall before long receive the retribution that comes to glasshouse dwellers who throw stones.

As Mr Greville has penetrated the partial anonymity conferred by my initials, I may as well sign myself,

Yours faithfully,
P. F. HOOKER

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5 May 1954