

values of  $f_k$ , thereby giving valuable and meaningful practice in numerical work.

As a further example, get the class to investigate the escape problem using a force  $f_k = -A/x_k x_{k+1}$  which has potential

$$\sum f_k \Delta X = A \left( \frac{1}{x_{k+1}} - \frac{1}{x_0} \right);$$

this problem corresponds to an inverse square law of attraction in the continuous case.

Note that no calculus is required in these problems, and as calculators and mini-computers work their way further down the school so possibly may these problems.

### Reference

D. Greenspan, *Arithmetic applied mathematics*. Pergamon Press, Oxford (1980).

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*Editor's note: The above reference is reviewed on page 306 of this edition of the Gazette.*

## Obituary

### Cyril Tetlow Daltry

When Cyril Daltry died earlier this year, I was aware that I had lost a friend and ex-colleague whom I had known for thirty-five years. He was deeply concerned about mathematical education throughout his working life and it was appropriate if somewhat belated when he was invited to be President of the Mathematical Association in 1972–73, two years after he had retired. A quotation from his presidential address at Sussex probably best represents his attitude to mathematical education when he said “I find myself reflecting that METHODS (HOW?) matter far more than CONTENT (WHAT?)”

Cyril Tetlow Daltry was born in the village of Dunham Massey near Altrincham in Cheshire on 15th October 1902. The family moved to the London area and he attended Harrow County School for Boys from which he gained admission to the East London College (now Queen Mary College) to read Mathematics. After being awarded a First Class Honours degree, he took a post-graduate teaching course at the London Day Training College, now known as the University of London Institute of Education. It was here that he was considerably influenced by Sir Percy Nunn, whose

work inspired Cyril Daltry throughout the next forty years. He began teaching at Eltham College and soon moved to Roan School Greenwich where he remained from 1924 to 1946 when he was invited to train mathematics graduates at the I. of E. in the place of J. W. Jenkins, who had been tragically killed in an air crash returning from a lecture tour in the Middle East. Cyril Daltry remained in charge of the mathematical education department until he retired in 1970, moving to Long Crendon in Oxfordshire where he died peacefully on 26th April 1981.

He joined the Mathematical Association in 1924 whilst at Roan School and soon became an active member of the Teaching Committee, whose published reports show him as secretary of at least three sub-committees and a member of many more. He was also joint-author of a number of school text-books and much involved in a report on secondary school mathematics issued by the Assistant Masters Association. He was a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Association and the Royal Statistical Society as well as being a Founder Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and Its Applications. Despite such involvement, Cyril Daltry was never happier than when he was enjoying the warmth and companionship of his family as well as relaxing at his beloved grand piano. Perhaps his wife, Susan, his four children and their families contributed to his capacity for listening to other people's points of view without necessarily being in agreement, which he demonstrated in abundance at the Institute of Education. When one has a succession of colleagues with such different personalities as Caleb Gattegno, Doris Lee, Jack Wrigley, Robert Williams and myself throughout nearly twenty-five years of teacher training, I am sure that I speak for all of us when I say that Cyril was a lovable and steadying influence.

The closing prayer at his cremation service aptly summarises his life and devotion. "We offer thanks for the rare gifts of knowledge and understanding he possessed, and for the dedication which enabled him to share his knowledge in the greatest of all vocations—that of teaching. We remember especially his deep love for all that is best in the traditional values of our land—for the beauty of nature, of music and of architecture. Above all, we remember one who served his fellow men in self giving of the great qualities of heart and mind he possessed and for the fine, generous, loving man that he was."

ALEC PENFOLD

#### *A prime name*

"George Miller is not even close to being the most common American name, but it is right up there in the top 30 or so. Every decent neighborhood should by odds contain at least one George Miller. Statistically, about 1 in 9000 Americans is named George Miller.

And the name George Miller has one singular nicety about it: It is a 'prime name.' Like prime numbers that cannot be reduced by division (not without a lot of trouble anyhow) prime names aren't subject to diminutives and nicknaming."

From the *San Francisco Chronicle* of 10 February 1981 (sent in by John Webb).