

There were five attempts to solve this problem. Two students - Hee Juay Guan and Teo Siang Khaw - obtained partial results, but no one received full credit for part (ii). The small number of students attempting this problem is probably due to the fact that not too many schools use the new syllabus. In fact the five attempts were from students of five different schools, suggesting that they were individual efforts.

A Letter to the Editor

...I suggest that there should be a column for queries by practising school teachers. Through this column they may ask for

- (i) methods on how to teach a certain topic;
- (ii) solutions to a problem which the teacher has failed to solve.

Then readers of the Medley may come to the rescue. If there is such a column, a copy of the Medley should be sent to the Principals of Secondary Schools. In this way we hope that more teachers will participate in the activities of the Society.

I should like to add a short note to the book review by Ho See Thong (this Medley, Vol.3, No.1) of 'Statistical Mathematics' by R. Loveday. The book's answer to Miscellaneous Exercise No. 19, page 86, is wrong. In other words,

$$n_1 + 2n_2$$

$$n_1 + 2n_2$$

$$[e^{-(n_1+2n_2)}(n_1+2n_2)^5]/5!$$

should read

$$n_1 + 2n_2$$

$$n_1 + 4n_2$$

$$e^{-(n_1+n_2)} [(n_1 n_2)^2/2 + (n_1^3 n_2)/6 + n_1^5/120].$$

This is for the benefit of those who use this school book.

Chang Sing Chun

[The Medley would be glad to introduce a column for queries by teachers or even students. Such a column will undoubtedly contribute in some way to mathematical education in Singapore. However, the existence and survival of this column will depend largely on the response of teachers and students. Ideas, suggestions or queries concerning the teaching of mathematics should be sent to: The Editor, Mathematical Medley, Department of Mathematics, University of Singapore, Singapore 10. - Editor]

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Simple Simon met a π man

Going to the fair.

Said Simple Siman to the π man

"You have unusual ware.

The π 's I've seen before were round

But, gosh, your π 's r^2 !"

* * * * *

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,

Starting from rest to have his great fall,

The distance he fell, the king's men will swear,

Measured exactly $\frac{1}{2}gt^2$.