

CORRESPONDENCE.

A Correction.

EDITOR EDUCATIONAL REVIEW :

Dear Sir,—In looking over the October number of your very excellent periodical I find at page 79, a proof, or shall I say, a so-called proof, of an interesting geometrical theorem, which, it seems to me, is very unsatisfactory. I beg to assure you that my criticism of it is not prompted by any spirit of carping or fault-finding; nor have I any reference whatever to a mistake in the demonstration which is obviously inadvertent, namely, the occurrence of “less” in the last line but three where *greater* was, no doubt, intended to be used.

1st. The proposition as given is not universally true, for if the sides containing the vertical angle be equal, then the line bisecting the base is *not* greater than the bisector of the angle, because the two are exactly coincident.

2nd. My chief objection, however, is that the geometrically unwarrantable assumption is made that the line bisecting the base meets the base at some point, to the right or left, as the case may be, of the point at which the bisector meets D without first establishing the right or left directions of the former point from the latter.

A similar assumption is made respecting the perpendicular drawn from the vertex to the base.

I subjoin the following proof which I think will be found to conform with the principles and logic of Geometry :

Let ABC be a triangle, and let $AC > AB$,

From the vertical angle A draw the bisector

AD , meeting the base in D . (I, 9)

From AC cut off $AE = AB$ (I, 3)

Then triangle $ABD =$ triangle AED (I, 4)

$\therefore BD = DE$

In triangle DEC the angle $DEC > ADE$ or $> ADB$. (I, 16)

Angle $ECD < ADB$ (I, 16)

$\therefore$ Still less is angle ECD than angle CED .

$\therefore DC > DE$ (I 19)

or $DC > DB$

Hence the middle point of the base lies between D and C

Let it be at F .

Join AF .

Angle $ADF > ADE$ or $> ADB$ (ax.)

But angle $ADB > AFD$ (I, 16.)

Much greater then is angle ADF than AFD

$\therefore AF$ is greater than AD (I, 19.) Q. E. D.

M.A.C.

A Three Years' College Course.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EDUCATIONAL REVIEW :

An idea is prevalent that it is the intention of the Senate of the University of N. B. to shorten the Arts Course to three years, and there has been some discussion over the matter. Whatever may be urged against it there is also something to be said in its favor, among other things that the president of one of the largest and most influential seats of learning in the United States has come out in favor of a three years' course. In a young country where the field for specialists is limited, four years seems a long time and a large slice of a man's years of usefulness to devote to an Arts Course, and if it be possible to limit the time consistently with thoroughness it is most desirable that it should be done, especially from the standpoint of the young man or woman who has to work his or her own way.

The colleges having a four years' course cease work in the spring and do not resume until autumn, taking four months or more summer vacation. Why should this be done? Are the labors of students or professors more arduous than those say of the schools? If not, why should they require a longer rest? With the students of the leisure classes these long recesses may be popular, but with those of less means, and having less time, they are the reverse. Some studying and reading may be done in the time, but in the case of most of the students and professors they pass their time as other people, having nothing particular to do. It is true that it affords opportunity to some to earn a little toward expenses, but the field for such is curtailed save in the direction of book agencies. There is no chance now open for teaching, and take it all in all the average student would prefer attendance at college during much of the long vacation if it would insure graduation one year earlier. After all the value of an Arts degree does not so much depend upon time as application. If length of time in attendance at lectures is to be the criterion, by shortening the vacations as much time can be put in in three years as with the existing ones in four years.

STUDENT.

Dr. Abernethy was very much annoyed by an old lady who was always sure to accost him in the street for the purpose of telling him her ailments. Once she met him when he was in a great hurry. “Ah! I see you are very feeble,” said the doctor. “Shut your eyes and show me your tongue.” She obeyed, and the doctor, moving off, left her standing there for some time in this ridiculous position, to the infinite amusement of all who witnessed the funny scene.