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*Seventh Meeting, May 13th, 1887.*

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GEORGE THOM, Esq., LL.D., President, in the Chair.

Some Correspondence between Robert Simson, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Glasgow, and Matthew Stewart, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh.

BY JAMES TAYLOR, M.A.

*This correspondence, purchased at the sale of the Gibson-Craig collection of MSS., is now in the possession of Dr J. S. Mackay.*

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An Experiment in the Teaching of Geometry.

BY A. Y. FRASER, M.A., F.R.S.E.

§ 1. The course of geometry here referred to was given to pupils in George Heriot's School in the session preceding that in which they should begin the usual systematic study of geometry. The chief object of the course was to furnish their minds with a number of geometrical ideas before they should meet with these ideas as treated by Euclid. Subsidiary ends were also kept in view—such as to get them to make neat and accurate figures, and to enable them to solve various practical problems of construction and measurement.

§ 2. The classes with whom the experiment was tried were three in number, containing each fifty boys. The average age of the boys at the middle of the session was 12·3, 13·2 and 13 years. The time given was one period of forty-five minutes per week.

§ 3. The school provided fifty pairs of compasses and fifty box-wood rulers (9½" long, of special design, ¼" at each end being unmarked and the inches being divided into 8ths, 10ths, 12ths, and 16ths). Each pupil had a note-book about the size of an ordinary copy book, ruled in squares ½" × ⅓".