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PREFACE

One of the primary functions of the Committee for the Calculation of Mathematical Tables is the production of new tables in response to special demands on the part of research workers. The accompanying tables originated in such a demand but, at the time they were computed, they were thought to be too small for publication as a separate volume in the British Association's series of mathematical tables. It is obviously desirable that new tables for which a definite need has been shown to exist should be made generally available without delay. The Committee has, therefore, decided to begin the publication of a new series of tables, in the form of Part-Volumes, which will include not only tables of the kind indicated, but also other tables which, by reason of their size or nature, can properly be issued therein. It is intended that, in course of time, these Part-Volumes, or such of them as are deemed suitable, shall be combined into volumes and take their place in the Association's main series of tables.

The present tables of Legendre Polynomials, which form the first of the new series, and are designated Part-Volume A, were designed by Dr L. J. Comrie, and were largely computed under his supervision. The Introduction, for which the Committee is also indebted to Dr Comrie, describes the material on which the tables are based, and the methods used in their construction.

For a detailed bibliography of tables of the Legendre functions, including the polynomials and associated functions, reference may be made to the *Index of Mathematical Tables*, by A. Fletcher, J. C. P. Miller and L. Rosenhead, 1946 (London: Scientific Computing Service, Limited).

A. J. THOMPSON