ALGEBRA
FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING STUDENTS

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BY

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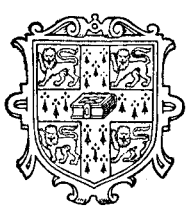

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PREFACE

The essential feature of this book is its briefness. Boys studying science require some knowledge of 'Higher Algebra', but unless they are of unusual ability they have not time to work through one of the larger treatises. If their subject is biology, it is usually found that they have not time for mathematics at all, a state of affairs particularly regrettable at a time when biology is becoming every day more mathematical.

A second feature is that probability and statistics are brought within reach of the ordinary sixth form science boy. It is naturally impossible to include more than an introduction to these difficult subjects, but it is quite wrong that science students, particularly biology students, should go to their universities without having been made aware of even the existence of a side of mathematics whose importance is becoming more and more apparent.

Lastly, some attempt has been made to indicate by means of examples the usefulness to scientists of some of the ideas explained in the text. These isolated 'applications' do not of course represent completely the reason why the scientist must study mathematics—for he is dealing all the time in relations and dependences, and mathematics is the study of these in the abstract—but they are put in to help bridge the gap in the student's mind between two seemingly disconnected parts of his work.

I am greatly indebted to Mr D. McGregor, without whose help and encouragement the book would hardly have been completed; to Mr K. S. Snell, who has been kind enough to read the manuscript and proofs; to these and other critics for various suggestions; and to the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board for permission to reprint questions from examination papers.

E. H. L.

December, 1939

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