

A SECOND CORRECTION

BY

EDWARD V. HUNTINGTON

In my paper in the present volume these Transactions (vol. 35, pp. 274–304 and 557–558), the Example 5 on page 304 is erroneous and Postulate 5 on page 301 is redundant. That is, Postulates 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 (without 5) form a set of independent postulates for the “informal” system of *Principia Mathematica*.

The proof of 5 from 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 is as follows.*

6a. If $a+b$ is in T and a not in T , then b is in T . (From 6.)

6b. If a not in T and b not in T , then $a+b$ not in T . (From 6.)

7a. If a is in T , then a' is not in T . (From 7.)

3a. If b is in T , then $a+b$ is in T .

For, by 7a, b' is not in T . But by 3, $b' + (a+b)$ is in T . Hence by 6a, $a+b$ is in T .

4a. If b is in T , then $b+a$ is in T .

For, by 3a, $a+b$ is in T , whence by 7a, $(a+b)'$ is not in T . But by 4, $(a+b)' + (b+a)$ is in T . Hence by 6a, $b+a$ is in T .

5a. If a is not in T , then a' is in T .

For, suppose a' not in T . Then by 6b, $a' + a$ not in T , whence by 6b, $a' + (a' + a)$ not in T , contrary to 3.

5. If a, b , etc. are in K , then $(b' + c)' + [(a+b)' + (a+c)]$ is in T .

Case 1; a in T . By 4a, $a+c$ is in T . Hence the theorem, by 3a (twice).

Case 2: b in T . By 7a, b' is not in T . If c is in T , then by 3a, $a+c$ is in T , whence the theorem, by 3a (twice). If c is not in T , then by 6b, $b' + c$ is not in T , whence by 5a, $(b' + c)'$ is in T , whence the theorem, by 4a.

Case 3: a not in T and b not in T . By 6b, $a+b$ not in T , whence by 5a, $(a+b)'$ is in T . Hence the theorem, by 4a and 3a.

The proof is thus complete. It can also be shown that 1, 2, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a, 7 form a set of independent postulates equivalent to the set 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7.

* For valuable suggestions in this connection I am indebted to Professor Alonzo Church and Dr. K. E. Rosinger.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.
May 29, 1933.