

CORRESPONDENCE

RE: Criteria of Smoothness. By H. A. R. BARNETT, F.I.A. (*J.I.A.*, **112**, Part III, December 1985).

Mr. L. V. Martin has drawn my attention to an error (my error) in §4.5 of my paper "Criteria of Smoothness" in *J.I.A.* **112**. Osculatory interpolation between 22 pivotal values does, of course, use 21 separate curves with 20 points of intersection. Fortunately this error does not affect the argument.

I am also grateful to him for the information that the 'wobbles' in the eighties of age in the English Life Tables arose from the methods employed to complete the upper end of the tables. It may, indeed, be impossible to use a blend of two different shaped curves without causing a 'wobble'. (Similarly for wobbles at the lower end of the tables, but I think this was already realized.)

H. A. RODNEY BARNETT