

33
CRABTREE'S THEOREM
James Lighthill
1986

Mingling reverentially over the years amongst all the awe-inspiring depth of Crabtree scholarship in its literary, linguistic, artistic, historical, legal, medical, pharmaceutical, electromagnetic and divers other modes, a mere mathematician has felt the impossibility of ever making a contribution that could stand alongside the imposing monuments to our poet raised by the giants of the discipline. Ineluctably, one of your Foundation's members was conscious, beside those massive erections, of an unaccustomed sense of impotence.

With Joseph Crabtree, of course, as with that comparably polymathic genius Francis Bacon, it could be seen as tempting to go far beyond the legitimate bounds of historicoliterary speculation and attribute hastily, without proper scrutiny of evidence to the contrary, works of genius of hitherto accepted provenance to an age's most

something of a poet will never be a complete mathematician!; and so it was with Joseph Crabtree. Tay

