March 17, 1941

My dear Mather,

I have just written to Catcheside telling him that I do not think the Rules can be interpreted compatibly with his retaining the Secretaryship after June next, nor that the Committee would be willing to propose an alteration of the rules for this purpose.

I have asked him to pass over the minutes books and other documents of the Society to your keeping, with a view to your carrying out in the future what he has hitherto done. I do not know what difficulty is anticipated with respect to printing, but if the Cambridge firm cannot work efficiently on orders from you at Hertford, we must change to a London firm. Perhaps, however, there is nothing in this.

I should like your advice as to your future colleague. The junior Secretary has not, so far, been a very active officer, and it may be you think that in future he ought to be more so. I do not at the moment see any possibility more suitable than Ford, but I should be glad to consider any alternative, if you care to suggest one. I forget whether any of the retiring Committee men are strongly indicated as Vice-President. In any case I want your views here particularly.

p.t.o.
On our rule that three Committeemen retire annually, a
difficulty arises which must frequently have occurred before,
due to the fact that some Committeemen, through death, evacuation,
or promotion to another office, do not complete their terms, but
must, none the less, be replaced on the Committee. There is no
indication on the papers I have that this has ever occurred, or
that there is any customary means of coping with it. I suppose
what should be done is to assign to each Committeeman a nominal
year of election, three years after which he is due to retire, and
to replace Committeemen who fall out by substitutes, dating from
the date at which the "over-study" is due to retire, so that these
would serve four or five years in fact, of which the first one or
two would be as surrogates. If you have done this, will you let
me know how our present Committee, at present classified neatly
three by three, should in fact be assigned to their respective
years.

Yours sincerely,