

31st January, 1953.

Dear Professor Rankin,

Thanks for your letter of January 29th on this question of partition nomenclature. I should, I think, have been explicit that the situation at the moment is that my papers in the Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society did use, among other things, MacMahon's terms partitions in plano and in solido for things which were not what MacMahon meant, but which are equally well described by these terms.

There is therefore and unavoidably a dual usage in the literature which cannot be deleted since the Proceedings and Transactions will be consulted and used for many years.

Now that I am aware of the ambiguity of these terms, I think it will be desirable and in accordance with your letter to use the terms bipartition and tripartition, or in general *l*-partition for the configurations that I am concerned with, these terms having already been used for them, and being not very suitable for the generalisation which MacMahon had in view. I hope you will think this a satisfactory solution of what might give students a certain amount of trouble.

Sincerely yours,