

100 Years ago in The American Mathematical Monthly

In Volume 10 of the eleventh edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, under the word Fermat, there appears the following statement: “He died in the belief that he had found a relation which every prime number must satisfy, namely $2^{2^n} + 1 = \text{a prime.}$ ” It is very evident that most of the small prime numbers are not of this form. In the noted French encyclopedia, called *Nouveau Larousse*, there appears, under the word substitution, the following statement: “The notion of group due to Galois has opened a vast field.” Every one ought to know that the notion of group is much older than the work of Galois. As these statements appear in works which are generally regarded as very reliable they are of especial interest. (G.A. Miller, in *School Science and Mathematics*.)

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