This section of Resonance is meant to raise thought-provoking, interesting, or just plain brain-teasing questions every month, and discuss answers a few months later. Readers are welcome to send in suggestions for such questions, solutions to questions already posed, comments on the solutions discussed in the journal, etc. to Resonance Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore 560 080, with “Think It Over” written on the cover or card to help us sort the correspondence. Due to limitations of space, it may not be possible to use all the material received. However, the coordinators of this section (currently A Sitaram and R Nityananda) will try and select items which best illustrate various ideas and concepts, for inclusion in this section.

1 Problem of the Vacillating Mathematician

We thank the readers for their enthusiastic response to this problem. We are not publishing the solution to this problem right now as the solution will be part of an article by K B Athreya on a related theme and will appear in Resonance shortly. A correct solution has been provided by Balraj Singh.

2 100kg with Five Stones

A more general version of this problem has been discussed by B Bagchi in his article Bachet’s Problem (Classroom, this issue). We have received correct solutions from the following persons: S C Dutta Roy, S D Joshi, Ritesh Kumar Singh, K C Pradeep and G S Kalburgi.

3 Finding the Odd Ball

Discussion on this problem will be taken up in another issue of Resonance.