

## Box 1.

Edward Waring (1736-1798) was the son of John Waring, a farmer in Shropshire, England. He went to Shrewsbury school and entered Magdalene college, Cambridge in 1753. There he impressed his teachers with his mathematical abilities and he graduated BA in 1757 as a senior wrangler. Waring's most famous work, *Meditationes Algebraicae*, was composed in 1759 when he was in Magdalene college and he submitted it to the Royal Society. Though it formed the basis on which he was selected to the Lucasian Chair of Mathematics in Cambridge (once held by Newton) in 1760 at the young age of 24, it was not published until 1770. He wrote a few other books on number theory and geometry but his writing was not lucid and so did not attract the attention it deserved. In fact, many of his results were rediscovered by others and go by their names for example, Wilson's theorem. He was elected to the Royal Society in 1763 and was awarded the Copley Medal in 1784. Thomas Thomson's assessment of Waring is perhaps the most accurate one describing him: *Waring was one of the profoundest mathematicians of the eighteenth century; but the inelegance and obscurity of his writings prevented him from obtaining that reputation to which he was entitled.*

Hardy and Littlewood was  $G(k) \leq (k-2)2^{k-1} + 5$ . Substantial contributions, mainly by I M Vinogradov, H M Davenport, R C Vaughan and K Thanigasalam culminated in the work of T D Wooley in 1992 who proved that

$$G(k) \leq k(\log k + \log \log k + O(1)).$$

This remains to be the best result so far.

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## Errata

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Page 55: The Sanskrit sloka should read as

उदये सविता रक्तः, रक्तश्चास्तमने तथा।  
सम्पत्तौ च विपत्तौ च महताम् एकरूपता॥

*Resonance*, Vol.9, No.4, April 2004.

Page 37: The structure of geraniol should be

