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"The Method of Rates:" The Books of Rice and Johnson.

In his 1890 survey of mathematics teaching in the United States, Florian Cajori asked, "What method of teaching calculus do you favor, that of limits, the infinitesimal, or some other?" Among the 154 responses to this question, 16 or 11% said they favored the method of rates. Among the scattering of text books available to these teachers were those of J. Minot Rice and W. W. Johnson.

These books appeared between 1873 and 1909. This period covers the peak of interest in this method, which attempts to revive and revise Newton's fluxions in a more "modern" form.

In this paper, I will look at the authors, their motivation, and some of the details of their presentation (Received September 12, 2009)