Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic Volume V, Number 3, July 1964

## AXIOMATISATIONS OF THE MODAL CALCULUS Q

## A. N. PRIOR

R. A. Bull has shown in [1] that the modal calculus Q of [2] may be axiomatised by taking as primitives a strong and a weak necessity L and L, and by adding to PC the axioms

- A1. CLpp
- A2. CLpp
- A3. CKLpLqLKpq

and the rules (beside substitution and detachment)

- **RQ***La*:  $\vdash C\beta\gamma \rightarrow \vdash C\beta L\gamma$ , for  $\beta$  fully modalised and with all its variables occurring in  $\gamma$ .
- **RQ***Lb*:  $\vdash C L \alpha C \beta \gamma \rightarrow \vdash C L \alpha C \beta L \gamma$ , for  $\beta$  fully modalised and with all its variables occurring in  $\alpha$  or  $\gamma$ .
- **RQL:**  $\vdash C L \alpha C \beta \gamma \rightarrow \vdash C L \alpha C \beta L \gamma$ , for  $\beta$  fully modalised and with all variables of  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  occurring in  $\alpha$ .

From the sufficiency of these postulates it is possible to prove the sufficiency of some other postulates for **Q** which I suggest in [3]. In these, I adopt a suggestion of J. L. Mackie and use as a primitive a functor S ("always statable"), such that Sp is equivalent, in terms of Bull's primitives, to LCpp. The other primitive I use in [3] is a possibility-operator M (in Bull's terms NLN), but Bull's weak necessity L will do just as well, and indeed makes possible a slight simplification of the postulates. Bull's Lp is definable in terms of my primitives as KSpLp. My postulates, for subjoining to **PC**, then become the one axiom A1. CLpp, and the three rules:-

- **RS1:**  $\vdash CS\alpha Sp$ , where p is any variable in  $\alpha$ .
- **RS2:**  $\vdash CSpCSq \ldots S\alpha$ , where p, q, etc. are all the variables in  $\alpha$ .
- **RSL:**  $\vdash C\alpha\beta \rightarrow \vdash CSpCSq \ldots C\alpha L\beta$ , where  $\alpha$  is fully modalised and p, q, etc. are all the variables in  $\beta$  that are not in  $\alpha$ .

In view of Bull's result, the sufficiency of these for **Q** may be shown by deducing Bull's postulates from them, including a pair of implications (CSp LCpp and C LCppSp) corresponding to the definition of S in Bull's system.

Received October 7, 1963