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**James K. Langley**

**Deficient Values of Derivatives  
of Meromorphic Functions in the Class  $S$**

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**Abstract.** It is shown that if  $f$  is transcendental and meromorphic in the plane with finitely many critical and asymptotic values then  $\delta(b, f') = 0$  for every  $b \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ . If, in addition,  $f$  has finite lower order then the same result holds for higher derivatives.

**Keywords.** Meromorphic function, Nevanlinna deficiency, singularities, inverse function.

**2000 MSC.** 30D35.

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