J.-P. Serre has kindly written to me to point out that my statement on p. 17, to the effect that Fuchs had a theorem which established that any Riemann surface admitting an involution is birationally equivalent to a hyperelliptic one, is misleading. There can be no such theorem, for the result is false, as the Fermat curve $x^4 + y^4 = z^4$, which is of genus 3 but not hyperelliptic, demonstrates. Fuchs nonetheless claimed to have such a result, but his proof is fallacious and I should have referred only to an incorrect 'theorem'. I am grateful to J.-P. Serre for raising the question and bringing the counterexample to my attention and regret my error in the matter.