



The Kentucky Section of the Association

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The meeting was a great success and the Rocky Mountain Section of the Association was formed with the following officers: C. B. Ridgaway, Professor of Mathematics, University of Wyoming, Chairman. C. C. VanNuys, Professor of Physics, Colorado School of Mines, Vice-Chairman. G. H. Light, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, University of Colorado, Secretary-Treasurer.

Papers were presented by O. C. Lester, Professor of Physics, University of Colorado, on "The Solid Angle," and Florian Cajori, Professor of Mathematics, Colorado College, on "Fluxions." Discussion of these papers was general.

There were twenty-one present at the meeting, fifteen of whom are already members of the Association and the others will join at once: C. B. RIDGAWAY, Professor of Mathematics, C. E. STROMQUIST, Professor of Mathematics, J. C. FITTERER, Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Wyoming; C. R. BURGER, Professor of Mathematics, G. E. F. SHERWOOD, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, C. C. VANNUYS, Professor of Physics, H. M. SHOWMAN, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering, F. W. LUCHT, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, W. J. HAZARD, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Colorado School of Mines; S. L. MACDONALD, Professor of Mathematics, Colorado A. & M. College; G. W. FINLEY, Professor of Mathematics, Colorado State Teacher's College; FLORIAN CAJORI, Professor of Mathematics, Colorado College; W. H. HILL, Greeley High School; E. L. BROWN, East Denver High School; I. M. DELONG, Professor of Mathematics, G. H. LIGHT, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, CLARIBEL KENDALL, Instructor in Mathematics, O. C. LESTER, Professor of Physics, J. W. WOODROW, Assistant Professor of Physics, DR. O. A. RANDOLPH, Instructor in Physics, C. E. SPERRY, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, University of Colorado.

G. H. LIGHT,
Secretary-Treasurer.

THE KENTUCKY SECTION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The Mathematics Section of the Association of Kentucky Colleges and Universities (now the Kentucky Section of the Mathematical Association of America) was organized in April, 1909, and since then has met regularly twice a year.

This organization has directed most of its attention to a consideration of problems peculiar to collegiate work, one result of which has been a tendency toward a standardization of the mathematical courses in the colleges of the state.

Another feature of the work of this organization has been the consistent efforts put forth to strengthen and improve the teaching of mathematics in the high schools of the state. It was at first planned to work out a correlated course in mathematics for the high schools but this was later abandoned. In 1910 it was decided to test the degree of preparation of all students entering the colleges of the state by setting examinations covering algebra and plane and solid geometry.

The results of these examinations were collected for a number of years. The grades of the students of each preparatory school of the state were then averaged, and the results tabulated and sent to all of the schools concerned. In this way an appeal was made to the pride of the best schools, which led them, in a spirit of friendly rivalry, to compete for the places of honor, while it acted as a spur, though not in an offensive way, to those who did not show up well in the report. It was also possible by this means to point out the parts of the different subjects in which the students were most poorly prepared, and to make helpful suggestions in a friendly and coöperative spirit. This was accomplished through the medium of the Kentucky Educational Association.

The pleasant social events connected with the meetings, the stimulating and helpful results of the pooling of ideas, and the inspiration of professional contact have led to the development of a fraternal spirit among the mathematicians of the state.

When the Mathematical Association of America was organized, the Mathematics Section of the Association of Kentucky Colleges felt that, as it had been a pioneer organization in the collegiate field, it was in a peculiarly fortunate position to be immediately incorporated as a section of the national association. Accordingly, application was made in May, 1916.¹ Admission was granted in February of this year.

The first meeting as a Section of the Mathematical Association of America (ninth annual meeting as an organization) was held at Berea College, Berea, Ky., May 11-12, 1917.

Friday afternoon preceding the meeting was given over to entertainment features, including luncheon at Boone Tavern, horseback trip into the mountains, supper at the college dining hall. In the evening there was a business meeting, and the members were guests at a college faculty meeting.

On Saturday morning there was a tour of inspection of college grounds and buildings, and attendance at the college chapel service, and luncheon at the home of Professor Phalen.

Following is the program of the Friday meetings:

Morning Session.

Remarks by President of the Section. By Professor H. R. PHALEN, Berea College.

"The status of mathematics." By Professor J. M. DAVIS, University of Kentucky.

"The case against mathematics." By Professor A. L. RHOTON, Georgetown College.

"Demonstration of an equation balance." By Professor E. L. REES, University of Kentucky.

¹The delay in completing the arrangements for the admission of the Kentucky Section was due to an effort on the part of the Committee of the Association to make a combination with another state, which plan finally proved not to be feasible. EDITORS.

Afternoon Session.

"Pedagogical problems of the Freshman course." By Professor P. P. BOYD, University of Kentucky.

"The best mathematical library for one hundred dollars." By Professor W. H. GARNETT, Kentucky Wesleyan University.

"Helmholtz's theory of contraction." By Professor H. H. DOWNING, University of Kentucky.

"Three methods of presenting subject matter." By Professor HENRY LLOYD, Transylvania University.

At each session the formal papers were followed by an open discussion.

Those present at the meeting were: H. R. Phalen, J. N. Peck, J. Van Hook, Miss L. J. Ritscher, Miss E. C. DeBord, and Miss L. J. Harris, Berea College; A. L. Rhoton, Georgetown College; W. H. Garnett, Kentucky Wesleyan College; Henry Lloyd, Transylvania University; J. M. Davis, E. L. Rees, P. P. Boyd, and H. H. Downing, University of Kentucky.

Not all of those in attendance are now members of the Association but all will be given an opportunity to join at once.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: A. L. RHOTON, Chairman; H. H. DOWNING, Secretary-Treasurer.

The next meeting will be held in December at Lexington, Ky.

E. L. REES,
Secretary-Treasurer.

FOURTH MEETING OF THE KANSAS SECTION.

The fourth meeting of the Kansas Section of The Mathematical Association of America was held at the University of Kansas on Saturday, March 17. The Kansas Section is now following the plan of holding two meetings a year, one in November, at the time of the State Teachers' Association and the other in March. The meeting was given over entirely to discussing college algebra, and the time proved too short for the following program:

1. "The content of Freshman algebra." Professor W. H. ANDREWS, Kansas State Agricultural College.

2. "Algebra courses for college Juniors and Seniors:"

(a) For students preparing to teach: Professor U. G. MITCHELL, University of Kansas.

(b) For students preparing to do research work: Professor W. H. GARRETT, Baker University.

(c) For students preparing to enter applied sciences: Professor A. R. CRATHORNE, University of Illinois.

These papers were followed by general discussion and a business session.

The first topic, "The content of Freshman algebra," is of special interest to Kansas Colleges just now because recent legislative action has brought it about