The April Meeting of the Metropolitan New York Section
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half of each Section toward the expenses of its meetings, including payment of travel expenses of an invited speaker.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

President L. R. Ford presided at the annual business meeting, which was held on Friday at 2:00 P.M. in Room 306 Pomerene Hall.

The tellers, L. E. Bush and P. D. Edwards, announced the election of R. E. Langer, University of Wisconsin, as President for the two-year term 1949–1950, and of C. B. Allendoerfer, Haverford College, and R. J. Walker, Cornell University, as Governors for the three-year term 1949–1951.

Announcement was made of the election by the Board of Governors of N. H. McCoy, Smith College, as Second Vice-President for the two-year term 1949–1950.

MEETING OF SECTION SECRETARIES

A meeting of Secretaries of the Sections of the Association was held on Thursday morning in Room 305 Pomerene Hall. Eighteen of the twenty-five Sections were represented. Professor W. V. Parker, Chairman of the Committee on Section Meetings, presided at the meeting.

The following topics were discussed: membership, election of sectional governors, programs of section meetings, finances, coordination of Association activities with those of elementary and secondary-school groups.

Professor Schneckenburger described some of the sources of new members by analyzing a group of recently elected members of the Association. A general discussion of programs led to many helpful suggestions from the representatives of the various sections. The discussion of methods of election of sectional governors and of finances led to the actions taken by the Board of Governors on these matters which are given above.

Professor E. H. C. Hildebrandt, President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, urged the sections to provide a wider range of activities for teachers in the elementary and secondary schools. This was followed by a general discussion.

H. M. GEHMAN, *Secretary-Treasurer*

THE APRIL MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SECTION

The seventh annual meeting of the Metropolitan New York Section of the Mathematical Association of America was held at Washington Irving High School, New York, N. Y., on Saturday, April 24, 1948. Brother Bernard Alfred, Collegiate Vice-Chairman of the Section, presided at the morning session; Professor W. H. H. Cowles, Chairman of the Section, presided at the business meeting; and Mr. George G. Ross, High School Vice-Chairman, presided at the regular afternoon session.

One hundred and eighteen persons were present, including the following

sixty members of the Association: Brother Bernard Alfred, R. G. Archibald, W. D. Baten, W. C. Bornmann, Samuel Borofsky, C. B. Boyer, A. B. Brown, K. E. Brown, Jewell Hughes Bushey, Hobart Bushey, T. F. Cope, W. H. H. Cowles, J. G. Deutsch, J. N. Eastham, J. M. Feld, Daniel Finkel, R. M. Foster, K. G. Fuller, Harriet Griffin, George Grossman, Frank Hawthorne, G. C. Helme, R. E. Henry, E. Marie Hove, L. C. Hutchinson, R. A. Johnson, L. S. Kennison, E. R. Kiely, Edna Kramer-Lasser, B. R. Leeds, C. H. Lehmann, A. A. LePori, M. E. Levenson, Herman Levy, May H. Maria, A. L. Mayerson, Mary McKenna, F. H. Miller, A. J. Mortola, M. A. Nordgaard, P. B. Norman, Eugene Odin, J. K. Reckzeh, G. J. Ross, H. D. Ruderman, John Salerno, Charles Salkind, Aaron Shapiro, James Singer, E. R. Stabler, Mildred M. Sullivan, R. L. Vitale, H. E. Wahlert, Israel Wallach, Alan Wayne, Margaret C. Weeber, M. E. White, John Williamson, Sister Francis Xavier, R. C. Yates.

The Section elected the following officers for next year: Chairman, Professor R. A. Johnson, Brooklyn College; Collegiate Vice-Chairman, Professor T. F. Cope, Queens College; High School Vice-Chairman, Mr. H. D. Ruderman, Manhattan High School of Aviation Trades; Secretary, Professor James Singer, Brooklyn College; Treasurer, Mr. Aaron Shapiro, Midwood High School. Professor F. H. Miller, Cooper Union, was elected as the Sectional Governor.

Six papers were presented at the meeting.

1. *Practical methods of solving linear Diophantine equations*, by Professor A. B. Brown, Queens College.

If a linear Diophantine equation has a coefficient ± 1, the solutions are obvious. If not, a finite number of substitutions of the form $x = 1 \cdot x' + ay + \cdots + bz$ will either yield a coefficient ± 1, or disclose incompatibility.

For a system of equations, by taking linear combinations of left and right members of equations, an equation with a coefficient ± 1 may be obtained; otherwise the procedure for a single equation must be used. If an unknown has a coefficient ± 1 in an equation, it can be eliminated from the remaining equations, giving us a system with one fewer equations in one fewer unknowns to be solved. Again incompatibility shows up automatically. There are no formulas to be memorized.

2. *Basic values in junior high school mathematics*, by Miss Mary C. Rogers, Roosevelt Junior High School, introduced by the Secretary.

In a world where quantitative situations must be dealt with repeatedly and accurately, mathematical literacy is as important as the ability to read and write. The speaker held that the special functions of the junior high school are: (1) to provide an adequate and natural continuance of the work of the elementary school; (2) to correct all mathematical retardations and shortages existing among any of its pupils; (3) to provide an expanding and deepening experience with the problems of everyday living; (4) to strengthen and extend the foundations for subsequent experiences with mathematics. It was also stated that the mathematics curricula should include: (1) number and computation; (2) measurement and informal geometry; (3) constructions and interpretation of graphs; (4) an introduction to the functional core of algebra through formulas and equations; and (5) a generous application of the various phases of mathematics to the problem of everyday living. The speaker exhibited a number of charts, drawings, and solids made by students of her school.

3. *Generation, properties, and applications of some curves*, by Lt. Colonel R. C.

Yates, United States Military Academy.

Colonel Yates developed the conics as envelopes of creases formed by folding wax paper. He then discussed a simple ruler-compass construction for the center of curvature of all conics. This led to the consideration of evolutes and their application as caustics in the field of optics, with particular attention to the catacaustic of a circle for various point sources of light, and the diacaustic formed by light rays refracted through a plane surface. The idea of instantaneous centers of motion was then considered as a means of determining tangents to familiar curves such as the limaçon, strophoid, conchoid, and cycloid. The paper closed with remarks on the family of roses and their identification as special epitrochoids and hypotrochoids. Several models were used for illustration.

4. *Mathematical machines*, by Professor F. J. Murray, Columbia University, introduced by the Secretary.

Professor Murray stated that the characteristic aspects of current civilization appear in the utilization of scientific techniques which involve mathematics in a very fundamental way. But the range of application of mathematics is limited by our ability to solve complex problems and carry out computations. Thus the development of mathematical machinery is an important part of technical progress. Applied mathematics in general requires a considerable mathematical development beyond the pure theory, and mathematical machinery poses additional problems. It is similar to an increase in dimensionality. The study of mathematical machines is highly desirable for technical progress, its theoretical development has deep intellectual interest, and to the student of mathematics it offers a fascinating contact with the myriad of technical advances which distinguish our modern culture.

5. *The high school-college articulation group reports*, by Dr. Eugenie C. Hausle, James Monroe High School (introduced by the Secretary), and Professor J. H. Bushey, Hunter College.

Dr. Hausle discussed some of the recommendations submitted by the mathematics sub-committee on articulation between high school and college. Specific recommendations pertaining to methods of teaching and content of courses were dealt with. In particular, it was suggested that, beginning with the eleventh year, more and more of the responsibility for learning should be put upon the pupil. It was also recommended that the problems of coordination of mathematical teaching in the several divisions of the educational system could best be handled by a council for continuing the study of articulation between high school and college.

Professor Bushey discussed these matters from the point of view of the colleges. He pointed out the wide variation in the previous mathematical preparation of college freshmen and recommended a system of testing for placement purposes.

JAMES SINGER, *Secretary*

THE MAY MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS SECTION

The twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Illinois Section of the Mathematical Association of America was held at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois, on Friday and Saturday, May 14–15, 1948. Professor John J. Corliss, Chairman of the Section, presided at all meetings.

There were 143 in attendance, including the following 69 members of the Association: M. L. Anthony, D. L. Arenson, H. G. Ayre, Ruth M. Ballard, H. R. Brahana, Winifred V. Berglund, S. F. Bibb, G. M. Bloom, F. R. Brown, E. L. Buell, Laura E. Christman, E. G. Comfort, J. J. Corliss, J. P. Esposito,