



The April Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section

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THE APRIL MEETING OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION.

The sixth regular meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section was held at the State Teachers College, Greeley, Colorado, on April 14-15. Sessions were held on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. The presiding officer was Professor G. W. Finley of the State Teachers College.

There were thirty in attendance, including the following eleven members of the Association:

I. M. DeLong, B. F. Dostal, A. R. Fehn, G. W. Finley, Philip Fitch, J. C. Fitterer, H. A. Howe, Claribel Kendall, G. H. Light, J. Q. McNatt, H. E. Russell.

Those in attendance were royally entertained at a six-thirty dinner in the Club House by Professor and Mrs. Finley. Professor LIGHT was elected chairman and Professor FEHN, vice-chairman, for the meeting to be held at the University of Colorado next year. A committee, consisting of Professor DeLong and Mr. Fitch, was appointed to draw up suitable resolutions upon the death of Dr. G. B. Halsted. It was also voted to extend an invitation to the national Association to hold its next meeting at the University of Colorado in September of this year or as soon thereafter as possible.

The following papers were presented:

- (1) "Certain congruences determined by a given surface" by Dr. CLARIBEL KENDALL;
- (2) "Kepler's problem for high planetary eccentricities" by Dean H. A. HOWE;
- (3) "On the parametric equations of straight lines of which certain polar curves are envelopes" by Mr. PHILIP FITCH;
- (4) "Games in mathematics teaching" by Mrs. LAURA C. GRAVES (by invitation);
- (5) "A problem in mensuration" by Mr. J. Q. MCNATT;
- (6) "The application of hyperbolic functions to transmission line problems in engineering" by Mr. B. F. DOSTAL;
- (7) "The content of a course in plane geometry" by Mr. FITCH;
- (8) "Population curves" by Professor J. C. FITTERER.

Abstracts of papers follow below, the numbers corresponding to the numbers in the list of titles.

1. Miss Kendall gave formulas which she had developed for obtaining the curves on a surface which would give the developables of any congruence associated with the surface. A line of the congruence was given for every point on the surface. She also gave the formula for obtaining the focal points on any such line. These results were applied to several special congruences and some interesting relations among the lines determining these congruences were obtained. Several of these lines are lines of the osculating quadric at the point and are in harmonic relation to one another.

2. Dean Howe gave a method for determining to a very close approximation the position of asteroids, except in the cases where the eccentricity is very great.

3. Mr. Fitch demonstrated a short method for finding the equations of lines traced by reflected rays of light, applying the same to known caustic curves.

4. Mrs. Graves suggested that all elementary mathematics should be taught after the fashion of the old spelling bee.

5. The problem considered by Mr. McNatt was to find the radius of the sphere which displaces the maximum amount of water contained in a conical vessel.

6. Mr. Dostal reviewed recent developments in the applications of the hyperbolic functions to loaded and balanced telephone lines and cables, and to power transmission lines.

7. This paper dealt with the subject matter, fundamental concepts and elementary principles of plane geometry. Mr. Fitch pointed out the relation of these concepts to those of higher mathematics and their use in other subjects.

8. Professor Fitterer showed that the hyper-tan curve, $y = a \tanh bx + c$, closely graphs population data. Its use in municipal and state problems involving probable future growth constituted an important application.

G. H. LIGHT, *Secretary-Treasurer.*

ORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SECTION.

On April 29, 1922, mathematicians of the Southeastern States met in the Main Building of Georgia School of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia. There were sixty-three present at the meeting, of which number the following fifteen are members of the Association:

D. F. Barrow, J. B. Coleman, T. R. Eagles, Floyd Field, Tomlinson Fort, Miss Leslie Gaylord, J. F. Messick, A. B. Morton, M. T. Peed, W. W. Rankin, Jr., H. A. Robinson, Douglas Rumble, W. V. Skiles, D. M. Smith, R. P. Stephens.

At the business meeting it was decided to present a petition to the Trustees of the Association asking permission to form a Southeastern Section of the Association, to include the following states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. After the program all present were entertained at lunch by Georgia School of Technology.

The officers elected are Professor FLOYD FIELD, Georgia School of Technology, Chairman; Professor R. P. STEPHENS, University of Georgia, Vice-Chairman; Professor W. W. RANKIN, JR., Agnes Scott College, Secretary-Treasurer. The Program Committee is composed of Professor W. W. Rankin, Jr., Chairman, Professor J. B. Coleman, University of South Carolina, and Professor Tomlinson Fort, University of Alabama.

The following program was carried out, abstracts being given with numbers to correspond to those of the program:

- (1) "Some possibilities of the slide rule" by Professor D. M. SMITH;
- (2) "Marking systems at the University of Georgia" by Professor D. F. BARROW;
- (3) "Zero and infinity in elementary mathematics" by Professor J. F. MESSICK;
- (4) "History of mathematics" (illustrated with slides) by Professor W. W. RANKIN, JR.;