



The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section

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Source: *The American Mathematical Monthly*, Vol. 38, No. 8 (Oct., 1931), pp. 425-426

Published by: [Mathematical Association of America](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2301959>

Accessed: 16/01/2015 13:02

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THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section of the Mathematical Association of America was held at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo., on Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18, 1931. There were three sessions, Professor Claribel Kendall presiding at each.

The attendance was forty-eight, including the following twenty-three members of the Association: C. F. Barr, Jack Britton, A. G. Clark, J. R. Everett, J. C. Fitterer, G. W. Gorrell, Sidney Hacker, C. A. Hutchinson, A. J. Kempner, Claribel Kendall, O. C. Lester, A. J. Lewis, G. H. Light, S. L. Macdonald, A. S. McMaster, J. Q. McNatt, W. K. Nelson, Greta Neubauer, E. J. Purcell, E. D. Rainville, O. H. Rechard, Mary S. Sabin, C. H. Sisam.

At the business session the following officers were elected for the next year: Chairman, Professor O. H. Rechard, University of Wyoming; Vice-chairman, Professor A. G. Clark, Colorado Agricultural College. Plans were made to meet at the University of Wyoming in the spring of 1932.

The following papers were presented:

1. "On a biological application of the Poisson series" by Professor A. G. Clark, Colorado Agricultural College.
2. "A theorem on foci" by Mr. E. J. Purcell, University of Colorado.
3. "Projective geometry and some of its relations to other courses in mathematics and mathematical physics" by Professor J. R. Everett, Colorado School of Mines.
4. "Solution of a problem in dynamics" by Professor D. F. Gunder, Colorado Agricultural College, by invitation.
5. "On Riccati equations" by Professor C. A. Hutchinson, University of Colorado.
6. "Geometry as an avocation" by Professor A. J. Kempner, University of Colorado.
7. "The practical experiences of engineering in the mountain districts of Colorado" by Mr. J. Q. McNatt, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company.
8. "Linear systems of curves on an algebraic surface" by Professor C. H. Sisam, Colorado College.
9. "On the application of equations to the solution of congruences with prime moduli" by Mr. E. D. Rainville, University of Colorado.

Abstracts of some of the papers follow, the numbers corresponding to the numbers of the titles:

1. Professor Clark showed how the Poisson distribution could be used to simplify the work of the seed analyst in handling the problem of noxious weed seeds in certification work.
2. Mr. Purcell presented and proved the following theorem on foci, which he believes to be new: If a real algebraic curve of class M has one or more real

axes of symmetry, then in general exactly M foci lie on each axis of symmetry. Any such set of M collinear foci completely determines the remaining foci.

4. The problem of a particle flying off a fixed curve while sliding under the force of gravity is a familiar one to students of elementary mechanics. The corresponding problem when the force of friction is considered had been solved for various particular curves. Professor Gunder gave the solution of the problem for any curve considering friction and the particle sliding from any given position. The solution in the case of the circle was given as an illustrative example.

5. Professor Hutchinson's paper gave an exposition of the elementary theory of the Riccati equation; discussed a few points of contact with the general theory of differential equations; and exhibited graphically the continuity of the integral curves with respect to the constant of integration.

7. Mr. McNatt discussed the unusual situations met in surveying in mountain districts. He showed the application of mathematics to the solution of various problems met in such work.

8. This expository paper deals with the definition of a birational transformation of an algebraic surface; the invariant properties, under birational transformations, of linear systems of curves on an algebraic surface; the significance and invariance of the genera of the surface; the simple and double integrals of the first kind on the surface, and the meaning of irregularity and its connection with non-linear systems of curves on the surface.

9. Mr. Rainville's paper was an expository account of some of the results obtained by extending the congruence notation of the theory of numbers. Some simplifications in solution of certain congruences is effected. A few of the results are to be found in Gauss's works. The most important contribution is probably Poinso't's "Sur l'application de l'algèbre à la théorie des nombres."

A. J. LEWIS, *Secretary*

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS SECTION

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Illinois Section of the Mathematical Association of America was held at the Bradley Polytechnic Institute, Peoria, Illinois, on May 1 and 2, 1931. The chairman, Professor H. B. Curtis, presided at all the sessions.

Forty-three persons registered attendance. Among these were the following twenty-nine members of the Association: Beulah Armstrong, Edith I. Atkin, H. W. Bailey, R. W. Barnard, Walter Bartky, C. E. Comstock, H. B. Curtis, Edna M. Feltges, Elinor B. Flagg, A. E. Gault, L. M. Graves, Martha Hildebrandt, Mildred Hunt, J. M. Kinney, W. C. Krathwohl, Luise Lange, Mayme I. Logsdon, W. D. MacMillan, C. N. Mills, G. E. Moore, E. J. Moulton, Mary W. Newson, W. A. Richards, Mina S. Rees, Mary B. Rumsey, E. W. Schreiber, H. E. Slaught, W. A. Spencer, C. A. VanVelzer, F. E. Wood.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: Chairman, R. W.