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The April Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section

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## THE APRIL MEETING OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION

The twenty-first annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section of the Mathematical Association of America was held at Colorado State College of Education, Greeley, Colorado, on Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17, 1937.

There were three sessions. Professor A. E. Mallory presided at each of the Friday sessions and at the business meeting Saturday morning. Professor C. A. Hutchinson presided during the Saturday morning program. Professor W. L. Hart of the University of Minnesota was the guest speaker.

The attendance was sixty-six, including the following twenty-four members of the Association: L. A. Aroian, C. F. Barr, J. R. Britton, J. R. Everett, J. C. Fitterer, G. W. Gorrell, D. F. Gunder, W. L. Hart, I. L. Hebel, C. A. Hutchinson, L. Louise Johnson, A. J. Kempner, Claribel Kendall, A. J. Lewis, S. L. Macdonald, A. E. Mallory, A. S. McMaster, W. K. Nelson, Greta Neubauer, E. D. Rainville, O. H. Rechard, A. W. Recht, C. H. Sisam, and W. M. Stewart.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: Chairman, C. A. Hutchinson, University of Colorado; Vice-Chairman, C. F. Barr, University of Wyoming.

The members and friends of the Association were guests of Colorado State College of Education at a dinner Friday evening. The Saturday morning session was a joint meeting with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

The following thirteen papers were read:

1. "A method of finding a solution of a system of three linear matrix equations in three unknowns" by Professor O. H. Rechard, University of Wyoming.
2. "Mechanical and graphical calendars" by Professor W. K. Nelson, University of Colorado.
3. "Note on an operational formula" by Professor C. A. Hutchinson, University of Colorado.
4. "Concyclic points and some allied configurations" by Professor C. H. Sisam, Colorado College.
5. "Certain distributions with binomial series as components" by Professor A. G. Clark, read by Professor L. A. Aroian, Colorado State College.
6. "Elementary remarks on Moebius's barycentric calculus" by Professor A. J. Kempner, University of Colorado.
7. "Inexact mathematics" by Professor W. L. Hart, University of Minnesota, by invitation of the Section.
8. "Statement of problems regarding high school mathematics—a report" by Professor C. A. Hutchinson, University of Colorado, and H. W. Charlesworth, East High School, Denver.
9. "Can mathematical values be measured?" by Professor O. H. Rechard, University of Wyoming.
10. "Who should study mathematics? What should be studied?" by Professor A. E. Mallory, Colorado State College of Education, and Ethelyn W. Rhiner, Greeley Public Schools.

11. "Some curriculum questions" by Professor C. H. Sisam, Colorado College.

12. "Remarks on the calculation of  $\pi$ " by Marjorie H. Beaty, University of Colorado, introduced by Professor Hutchinson.

13. "The trend in secondary mathematics and associated collegiate phenomena" by Professor W. L. Hart, University of Minnesota.

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

1. In considering the system  $A_iXB + C_iYD + E_iZF = C_i (i=1, 2, 3)$  in which all the matrices are square and the constant matrices are non-singular, it is found that a solution in terms of the constant matrices involves the solution of a  $k$ -termed linear matrix equation in a single unknown,  $k$ , a function of the order of the matrices. Since, so far as Professor Rechar has been able to determine, the value of the unknown in such an equation has been described in terms of the constant matrices in the equation only for the cases  $k=1, 2$ , it is necessary in order to solve the system under consideration to transform the problem of solving this latter equation to that of solving an ordinary algebraic system of  $n^2$  linear equations in  $n^2$  unknowns. Professor Rechar showed how this could be accomplished and illustrated the method for a system in which the matrices were all of second order.

2. Any mechanical or graphical device for adding numbers might be used in making a perpetual calendar. Two calendars designed by Professor Nelson, one a desk calendar and the other a slide rule calendar of form to carry in a notebook, were demonstrated. The desk calendar may be set to show the year, name of month, and calendar for the month for any month in the twenty-four hundred year period beginning with 1 A.D. The notebook calendar may be set to show the calendar for a year at a time for any year of the same period.

3. Professor Hutchinson's note appears in this MONTHLY, pages 371-2.

4. Professor Sisam gave a simple method of deriving a series of formulas and identities arising from certain configurations of points in the plane and in space.

5. Professor Clark considered the distribution of total successful occurrences of a set of trials of an event, where, although the individual trials have an equal constant probability of successful outcome, such an outcome in an individual trial is counted as of a certain multiplicity preassociated with that trial. It was found that the resulting distribution of total successes could be broken into components which are simple binomial series. Relations were derived for the movements of such a distribution in terms of  $p$ , the constant probability of success, and  $r_j (j=1, 2, \dots, s)$ , the multiplicities associated with the  $s$  trials of the event.

7. Professor Hart emphasized the fact that, although mathematics has important uses for formulas and equalities, on the other hand there is a major section of analysis where, in contrast, features such as inequalities and successive approximations are met, and he suggested the importance of this contrast

in overcoming the restricted formal viewpoint of more elementary mathematics.

12. Miss Beaty gave a comparison between the method of isoperimeters and that of equal areas.

13. In this paper Professor Hart discussed proposals about secondary mathematics connected with existing tendencies to socialize the secondary curriculum. He labeled any approach to this problem as illogical if it involves a simultaneous attack on college entrance requirements. Regardless of the pertinence of such an attack, he advanced criticisms of the technique of some of its supporting educational research and suggested that it merely establishes the consistency of established entrance requirements and course prerequisites. Finally, he rested the case for secondary mathematics largely on the existing prerequisites, either tangible or intangible, for college courses and curricula, rather than on inflexible entrance requirements.

A. J. LEWIS, *Secretary*

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#### THE APRIL MEETING OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SECTION

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America was held in Nashville, Tennessee, on Friday and Saturday, April 16–17, 1937. There were in attendance about one hundred fifty persons from thirty-six institutions, including the following forty-eight members of the Association: H. G. Ayre, D. H. Ballou, W. S. Beckwith, R. V. Blair, Iris Callaway, M. G. Carman, R. D. Carmichael, T. C. Carson, Edna J. Cofield, W. A. Cordrey, H. M. Cox, Forrest Cumming, L. A. Dye, W. W. Elliott, D. C. Harkin, M. A. Hill, Jr., P. R. Hill, P. M. Hummel, W. R. Hutchinson, R. O. Hutchinson, J. A. Hyden, J. B. Jackson, Rosa L. Jackson, H. T. Karnes, G. B. Lang, F. A. Lewis, J. F. Locke, A. N. McPherson, Nellie P. Miser, W. L. Miser, W. A. Moore, J. S. Morrel, Mabel I. Nowlan, W. P. Ott, K. B. Patterson, D. D. Peele, W. W. Rankin, H. A. Robinson, J. A. L. Saunders, W. E. Sewell, A. R. Sloan, F. H. Steen, R. P. Stephens, Ruth W. Stokes, D. L. Webb, W. L. Williams, F. L. Wren, J. T. C. Wright, E. Kathryn Wyant.

Sessions were held the afternoon of the 16th at George Peabody College, and the evening of the 16th and the morning of the 17th at Vanderbilt University. Chairman W. W. Rankin presided, except Friday evening and part of Saturday morning when the Section was divided into subgroups according to the nature of the papers presented. Subgroups were presided over by Vice-Chairman J. B. Jackson, Dean C. M. Sarratt and Professor W. P. Ott. On the evening of the 16th a dinner was held in honor of the visiting speaker, Dean R. D. Carmichael of the University of Illinois. At this time Professor F. L. Wren presided.

At the business session on the 17th the following officers were chosen for 1937–38: Chairman, J. B. Jackson, University of South Carolina; Vice-Chair-