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The April Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section

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Since it is desirable for students in the natural science area to complete the calculus by the end of their sophomore year at the latest, and since it is not possible to assume that a beginning freshman has any knowledge of trigonometry, it is proposed that trigonometry be made an incidental part of a course in analytic geometry. The material of trigonometry can be presented as an application of the analytic method and can replace other illustrations. In particular, the theorem of Pythagoras in its analytic form (the "distance formula") leads immediately to the law of cosines and to the addition formulas. It was the opinion of the speaker that the point of view that this approach would entail would serve the student's needs far more than the excessive emphasis on the solution of triangles which is so often found in standard courses in trigonometry.

12. *A note on the effect of high school preparation in mathematics as measured by the Nebraska mathematics classification examination*, by H. M. Cox, University of Nebraska.

Questions on general mathematics (Part I) and questions on elementary high school algebra (Part II) differentiate sharply between students with two (or less) and three (or more) semesters of high school algebra. However, and for the effective use of the examination, there occur gradations in ascending order of mean score in accordance with the amount and variety of high school courses in mathematics. The Nebraska examination correlates satisfactorily with Section VI (Mathematics) of the Cooperative General Culture Test.

LULU L. RUNGE, *Secretary*

#### THE APRIL MEETING OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION

The thirty-fourth annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section of the Mathematical Association of America was held at the Colorado State College of Education, Greeley, Colorado, on Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21, 1951. Professor Dale O. Patterson, Chairman of the Section, presided at all the sessions.

Of the approximately one hundred thirty persons who registered, the following fifty were members of the Association: C. F. Barr, W. E. Briggs, J. R. Britton, R. G. Buschman, F. M. Carpenter, A. G. Clark, C. H. Cook, G. S. Cook, David Devol, Mary C. Doremus, A. B. Farnell, F. N. Fisch, R. R. Gutzman, Leota C. Hayward, I. L. Hebel, LeRoy Holubar, Burrowes Hunt, C. A. Hutchinson, B. W. Jones, M. W. Jones, A. J. Kempner, Claribel Kendall, J. S. Leech, Garner McCrossen, H. C. McKenzie, M. L. Madison, D. C. B. Marsh, Jr., W. K. Nelson, Greta Neubauer, K. L. Noble, D. O. Patterson, H. C. Peterson, Lily B. Powell, G. B. Rice, O. H. Rechard, A. W. Recht, L. W. Rutland, Jr., Nathan Schwid, W. N. Smith, L. C. Snively, M. E. Sperline, K. H. Stahl, P. O. Steen, J. F. Stockman, E. P. Tovani, E. L. Vanderburgh, V. J. Varineau, W. W. Varner, J. F. Wagner, Lillie Walters.

At the business meeting, it was voted to hold the next annual meeting at Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado, in May, 1952. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Chairman, Professor C. H. Cook, Western State College; Vice-Chairman, Professor B. W. Jones, University of Colorado; Secretary-Treasurer, Professor J. R. Britton, University of Colorado.

The program of papers for the Friday afternoon and Saturday morning sessions was as follows:

1. *Sidelights on certain topics in elementary statistics*, by Professor A. G.



mize storage requirements was included to call attention to the critical problem of storage limitation.

8. *Do you enjoy the problem sections in the Monthly?* by Mr. Hans Stetter and Mr. Donald Tucker, Colorado A. & M. College, introduced by Professor M. L. Madison.

Representative problems selected from the advanced problems section of late issues of this MONTHLY were solved. The problems proposed in the MONTHLY can serve as a challenge to the undergraduate major in mathematics, and many of these problems can be solved by ingenious elementary devices.

9. *A note on income tax calculations*, by Professor W. K. Nelson, University of Colorado.

10. *Occupational outlets in industrial and business fields for majors in mathematics*, by Professor S. R. Smith, University of Wyoming.

In the unavoidable absence of Professor Smith, this paper was read by Professor Greta Neubauer.

11. *Recent efforts and achievements in the revision of the high school mathematics program, and their significance in college*, by Professor C. F. Barr, University of Wyoming.

Professor Barr presented a review of the content and grade placement of high school algebra and geometry. He then developed historically the opinions of well-known mathematicians and the various responses of mathematics teachers to these opinions. Two large resulting movements were described: one, the "two-track" movement in which algebra and geometry were taught to the superior pupils while a course with a utilitarian flavor was presented to those not capable of following the algebra-geometry track; the other movement being not the "two-track" one, but the socializing and popularizing of algebra and geometry, which were urged upon a majority, if not all, of the pupils. The objections to each of these programs were reviewed. The author proposed that a third program, consistent with the accepted purposes of mathematics, be considered, namely, the development of a course compiled from the everyday experiences of all normal citizens. This course he urged should be required of all pupils at some time in their high school program, regardless of their intellectual abilities, and that it be supplemented by algebra and geometry of the classical type if the student intended to pursue mathematics or if he expected to train in any technological field. The age level at which this course should be required was discussed briefly, with the observation that perhaps systematic experimentation alone would furnish any dependable answer.

The after-dinner address Friday evening was given by the guest speaker, Professor G. B. Price, University of Kansas. Professor Price gave an illustrated lecture on the topic, *Experiences of a Mathematician as an Operations Analyst with the Eighth Air Force in England*.

J. R. BRITTON, *Secretary*

#### THE APRIL MEETING OF THE IOWA SECTION

The Iowa Section of the Mathematical Association of America held its thirty-eighth annual meeting at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, on Friday and Saturday, April 20–21, 1951. The Chairman, Professor D. L. Holl of the Iowa State College, presided at both sessions.