

THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY.

THE twelfth annual meeting of the American Mathematical Society was held at Columbia University on Thursday and Friday, December 28-29, 1905, simultaneously with the meetings of the American Physical Society and the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America. Large attendance and extensive programs characterized this three-fold gathering, in itself a noteworthy scientific occasion. Community of interest received due attention. A joint session of the Mathematical and Physical Societies was held on Friday afternoon for the purpose of hearing Professor V. F. Bjerknes, of the University of Stockholm, who spoke on 'Experimental Demonstration of Hydrodynamic Action at a Distance.' On Friday evening about ninety representatives of the three societies attended a dinner organized in honor of Professor Bjerknes. The common luncheon between each day's sessions afforded an excellent opportunity to renew and make acquaintance and to compare notes, scientific or otherwise. Informal gatherings were also held on Thursday evening.

The attendance at the four sessions of the Mathematical Society included sixty-six members, being a slight increase over the highest previous record. President W. F. Osgood occupied the chair, being relieved at the Friday afternoon session by Professor E. W. Brown. President Carl Barus, of the Physical Society, presided during the joint session. The following persons were elected to membership: Mr. R. L. Börger, University of Missouri; Professor W. B. Cairns, Ursinus College; Mr. A. J. Champreux, University of California; Dr. Emily Coddington, New York, N. Y.; Dr. F. J. Dohmen, University of Texas; Professor O. E. Glenn, Drury College; Mr. E. S. Haynes, University of Missouri; Professor J. H. Jeans, Princeton University; Mr. A. R. Maxson, Columbia Univer-

sity; Professor J. F. Travis, Georgia School of Technology; Professor Vito Volterra, University of Rome; Miss Mary E. G. Waddell, Orono, Canada. Nineteen applications for admission to membership were received. The total number of members is now 504, a net gain of 31 during the year 1905.

Reports were received from the treasurer, librarian and auditing committee. These reports will appear in the Annual Register of the society. The number of papers read at all meetings during the year was 147, as against 148 in 1904. The total attendance of members was 280; 161 members attended at least one meeting during the year. The library now contains about 2,300 bound volumes. The treasurer's report shows a balance of \$3,833.01 on hand December 16, 1905; of this balance \$2,132.58 is credited to the life membership fund.

At the annual election, which closed on Friday morning, the following officers and members of the council were chosen:

Vice-Presidents—Charlotte A. Scott and Irving Stringham.

Secretary—F. N. Cole.

Treasurer—W. S. Dennett.

Librarian—D. E. Smith.

Committee of Publication—F. N. Cole, Alexander Ziwet, D. E. Smith.

Members of the Council, to serve until December, 1908—C. L. Bouton, L. E. Dickson, Edward Kasner, E. J. Townsend.

The presidential term of Professor Osgood extends to December, 1906.

The following papers were read at the meeting:

R. G. D. RICHARDSON: 'Multiple Improper Integrals.'

A. B. FRIZELL: 'On the Continuum Problem (preliminary communication).'

D. R. CURTISS: 'The Vanishing of the Wronskian and the Problem of Linear Dependence.'

J. I. HUTCHINSON: 'On Certain Automorphic Groups whose Coefficients are Integers in a Quadratic Field.'

E. V. HUNTINGTON: 'Note on the Fundamental Propositions of Algebra' (preliminary communication).

C. J. KEYSER: 'Concerning a Self-reciprocal Plane Geometry.'

C. L. E. MOORE: 'Geometry of Circles Orthogonal to a Given Sphere.'

EDWARD KASNER: 'Invariants of Differential Elements for Arbitrary Point Transformation.'

A. B. FRIZELL: 'A Method of Building up the Fundamental Operation Groups of Arithmetic.'

G. A. BLISS: 'A Proof of the Fundamental Theorem of Analysis Situs.'

O. P. AKERS: 'On the Congruence of Axes in a Bundle of Linear Line Complexes.'

PETER FIELD: 'Note on Certain Groups of Transformations of the Plane into Itself.'

GEORGE PEIRCE: 'On a New Approximate Construction for π .'

MAX MASON: 'Curves of Minimum Moment of Inertia.'

A. G. WEBSTER: 'Application of a Definite Integral with Bessel's Functions to the Self-induction of a Solenoid.'

J. E. WRIGHT: 'Correspondence and the Theory of Continuous Groups.'

J. E. WRIGHT: 'An Application of the Differential Invariants of Space.'

CLARA E. SMITH: 'Abel's Theorem and its Application to the Development of an Arbitrary Function in Terms of Bessel's Functions.'

V. F. BJERKNES: 'Experimental Demonstration of Hydrodynamic Action at a Distance.'

R. P. STEPHENS: 'On the Pentadeltoid.'

M. I. PUPIN: 'Establishment of a Steady State in a Sectional Wave Conductor.'

J. J. QUINN: 'A Linkage for the Kinematic Description of a Cissoid.'

The Chicago Section held its eighteenth regular meeting at the University of Chicago, December 29-30. The San Francisco Section will meet at Stanford University on February 24. The next regular meeting of the society will be held at Columbia University, February 24. The summer meeting, together with a colloquium, will be held at Yale University in August.

F. N. COLE,
Secretary.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS.

Publications of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition. (Memoir of the American Museum of Natural History, New York.) Leiden, E. J. Brill, Ltd.; New York, G. E. Stechert & Co.

The continuation of the publications of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition appears, after an interval of several years, published by E. J. Brill, Leiden. The following notice of the publications issued during the year 1905 is written by the editor of the series, and for this reason contains only a brief statement of the contents of the volumes.

Vol. III., Part III., *Kwakiutl Texts.* By FRANZ BOAS and GEORGE HUNT.

This number closes the volume containing the Kwakiutl texts recorded by George Hunt, and revised and edited by Franz Boas. The material in this volume has been arranged according to tribes of the Kwakiutl, beginning with the extreme south, and proceeding northward. The first text in the series is given in interlinear translation; while all the others are given in parallel columns, Indian and English. At the end of the volume is given a brief abstract of the traditions, which are intended to enable the reader to inform himself regarding the contents of the volume without reading the full texts. The abstracts are provided with page references, which facilitate the finding of any particular passage. An appendix to the volume contains lists of stem words and suffixes, by means of which the philological use of the text is facilitated.

The present volume contains almost entirely traditions relating to the ceremonies and families of the Kwakiutl Indians, and illustrates the exuberance of legends of this character that have developed among this tribe. In character and contents, these traditions are remarkably uniform. They resemble the traditions of the northern parts of the North Pacific coast, and account for the privileges of the different families and tribes of the Kwakiutl.

The language is probably, on the whole, accurate. Mr. Hunt, the recorder, speaks Kwakiutl as his own mother tongue, and has