liable systematic botanists wherever his studies led him. In the days of my botanical work it was always a great delight and support to have his judgment on different plants; and I am sure that this feeling has been shared by many others.

Dr. Wheeler was a steadfast friend. It was a great joy to go afield with him. His keen eyes saw everything, and he enjoyed nature to the full. I shall never have another such a friend. He was a rare clear spirit.

Yours truly,

L. H. BAILEY

The thoughts so well expressed in this letter by Professor Bailey are shared by his many friends in Washington, at the college, in his early village home and elsewhere. Though he lived a quiet, peaceful life his real worth will not be forgotten until those who knew him shall pass as he has done, quietly into the great beyond.

He lies buried in the National Cemetery at Arlington, within sight of the hills on the farther side of the river, where in a soldier's camp he contracted the illness that was perhaps the determining cause of his botanical career.

W. F. WIGHT

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL PUBLICATIONS

THAT American mathematical activity has been rapidly increasing during the last few decades is a patent fact which has been the subject of considerable comment on the part of European mathematicians. It is, however, difficult to measure this activity accurately and to exhibit its increments in a clear manner. The objects of the present note are to call attention to this interesting problem and to present a few facts which seem to throw some light on it.

One of the most valuable aids for the study of current mathematical literature is the well-known *Jahrbuch über die Fortschritte der Mathematik*. The latest volume of this work lists and comments on about thirty-four hundred articles and books, which appeared during the year 1907. About one twentieth of these were by American authors who belong to the American Mathematical Society. If we compare this with the year 1892 we find that less than one fiftieth of the total mathematical output was then due to members of the corresponding society. While the total number of papers and books listed increased only about one third during this period of fifteen years those by American authors increased threefold.

This rapid advance is naturally the source of considerable optimism, but further comparisons tend to call attention to the fact that we are still far behind several other countries as regards mathematical work. For instance, although the French Mathematical Society has only half as many members as the American, yet their articles and books listed during 1907 exceed ours by a considerable number; and the German Mathematical Society, with a membership about equal to that of the American when foreign members are excluded, had twice as many publications recorded in this latest volume.

A comparison whose results appear at first as still less complimentary to our mathematical situation relates to the publications of the presidents of some of the leading mathematical societies. The societies selected were as follows: The American Mathematical Society, the London Mathematical Society, La Société Mathématique de France and Die Deutsche Mathematiker-Vereinigung. We took all the presidents of these societies for a period of sixteen years, beginning with 1894 when the American Mathematical Society assumed its present name, and looked up the number of references to their publications during the fifteen years covered by the three general indexes of the *Revue semestrielle des publications mathématiques*. The results were as follows: The average number for each of the nine American presidents is 21, for each of the eight English presidents it is 44, for each of the twelve German presidents it is 63, and for each of the sixteen French presidents it is 88.

In round numbers it thus appears that the presidents of the London Mathematical Society, during the period under consideration, published about twice as often as the presidents of the American Mathematical Society, while in the cases of the German and French

presidents this ratio becomes approximately three and four, respectively. The large average of the French presidents is due to the names Poincaré, Picard, Borel, Hadamard and D'Ocagne.

It would have been of interest to include the Italians in these comparisons, as they have recently become one of the most active nations as regards mathematical work. It is, however, somewhat doubtful whether any one Italian society represents as completely the national mathematical activity during the period under consideration as those which were selected above. The Circolo Matematico di Palermo would, however, have been placed in the list if the writer had had a complete roll of its presidents for the given period.

A noticeable feature as regards American mathematical publications is that they are to a very large extent confined to journals devoted exclusively to mathematics. Our mathematicians do not assume as prominent a place in the proceedings of our academies as European mathematicians do in the corresponding proceedings. There is a danger of too much isolation on the part of our mathematicians. It is true that this has not been without its advantages. The journals confined to mathematics generally have editors who are better judges as regards the importance of a particular mathematical article than the editors of the more general publications, and hence it has been possible to raise the standard of our mathematical products more rapidly than would have been feasible otherwise.

The question, however, remains whether it would not be better to give more freedom to authors as regards publication and to let such critical reviews as those of the *Fortschritte der Mathematik* make it clear to the young writer that it does not pay to publish while one is in ignorance as regards novelty or importance. The author's position should be dignified by every possible latitude that is consistent with efficiency and his feeling of responsibility should extend far beyond editorial surveillance.

G. A. Miller

HOME ECONOMICS

The American Home Economics Association held a sectional conference on household and institution management June 28–July 2, 1910, at the Lake Placid Club, Lake Placid, N. Y., meeting there by invitation. The attendance was large and many valuable papers were presented which had to do with institution food problems and dietary standards and with the training of dietitians and other experts, as well as with institution architecture and institution accounting. The need for standardization in various departments of institution work was one of the subjects which came up for discussion.

As a whole the meeting was of great interest, as it showed the progress which has been made in applying to problems of home and institution management the scientific and technical data accumulated in the past few years, particularly in the group of sciences included under the subject of home economics.

The Graduate School of Home Economics is to be held at Ames, Iowa, July 6–20, 1910, at a period which falls within the time covered by the Graduate School of Agriculture at the same place. The two schools will hold a number of public meetings in common and arrangements will be made for students to take advantage of both courses of lectures. Many prominent educators will take part in the work.

The Graduate School of Home Economics is the outgrowth of the Summer School of Chemistry and Biology of Middletown, Conn., which was held in the month of July, 1902, through the influence of the late Professor W. O. Atwater. Subsequent meetings were held at the University of Illinois and at Cornell University.

The Graduate School of Home Economics is closely affiliated with the American Home Economics Association.

MATHEMATICS FOR ADMISSION TO COLLEGE

A conference of representatives of the departments of mathematics of fifteen of the New England colleges and universities was