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

held at Cambridge, Mass., May 28, 1910. The object in the calling of the conference was to procure such action as should lead to uniformity of definition in the various divisions of mathematics which are required for admission to college. The conference organized by appointing Professor Osgood, of Harvard, chairman, and Dean Ferry, of Williams, secretary. After much discussion, it was voted to recommend to the colleges that they omit from their definitions of elementary algebra any topics which are not included in the College Entrance Examination Board's definition of that subject, and that they state their requirements in elementary algebra in such a manner as to show which, if any, of the topics in the College Entrance Examination Board's definitions are omitted or are not emphasized by them. It was voted further that the conference recommend to the colleges the adoption of the College Entrance Examination Board's definitions of the requirements in plane geometry, solid geometry, plane and solid geometry, trigonometry, plane trigonometry and advanced algebra, and that the members of the conference endeavor to persuade the faculties which they respectively represent to adopt these definitions. It was voted also that the conference recommend to the College Entrance Examination Board that no reduction in the time allowed to the individual subjects of mathematics in the examination schedule be made; but that mathematics a and mathematics cd continue to have three hours and that all other divisions of mathematics continue to have two hours each in the time schedule of the board's examinations. The faculties of many of the colleges concerned have already adopted the definitions of the College Entrance Examination Board in all admission subjects.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY has been elected a foreign associate of the Paris Academy of Sciences to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Alexander Agassiz.

THE Albert medal of the Royal Society of Arts for the current year has been awarded to Madame Curie for the discovery of radium.

DR. C. HART MERRIAM has resigned as chief of the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and is succeeded by Mr. H. W. Henshaw. Dr. Merriam, who will retain an official connection with the survey as consulting biologist, will devote himself to the preparation of a work on the mammals of North America, under an endowment provided by Mrs. E. H. Harriman.

DR. WILLIAM T. COUNCILMAN, professor of pathology in the Harvard Medical School, gave the annual address at the commencement exercises of the Yale medical school.

PROFESSOR O. FUHRMANN, of the University of Neuchâtel, has left for a two-years' scientific expedition to explore the Cordilleras basin of the Andes.

MR. ROBERT NEWSTEAD, lecturer in economic entomology and parasitology at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, has gone to Malta to investigate the menace to health by the sand-fly.

DR. F. P. MALL, professor of anatomy in the Johns Hopkins University, is at present in Germany.

MISS M. A. WILLCOX has resigned the professorship of zoology at Wellesley College, receiving the title of professor emeritus. Her future address will be Malden, Mass.

THE prize of £50 from the Gordon Wigan fund, Cambridge University, for a research in chemistry has been awarded to Mr. J. Thomas, Trinity, for experimental investigations on "The isolation of the aromatic sulphinic acids" and "The resolution of externally compensated quinoline derivatives containing two asymmetric carbon atoms."

THE British birthday honors in so far as they concern men of science are summarized in *Nature* as follows: Among the new privy councillors is the name of Sir William Mather, who has done much to promote technical education. The honor of knighthood has been conferred upon Mr. H. Hall, inspector of mines for the Liverpool and North Wales district, and Dr. A. Hopkinson, vice-chancellor and principal of the Victoria University of Manchester. Colonel F. B. Longe,