

a prominent place in the Association's programme, and rightly so, for they have promoted the advancement of science in many directions; but, while we recognize their value to scientific workers, we plead for something more for the great mass of people outside the section-rooms, for a statement of ideals and of service, of the strength of knowledge and of responsibility for its use. These are the subjects which will quicken the pulse of the community and convert those who hate and fear science and associate it solely with debasing aspects of modern civilization into fervent disciples of a new social faith upon which a lever made in the workshops of natural knowledge may be placed to move the world.

RICHARD GREGORY

A NOTABLE MATHEMATICAL GIFT

As trustee of the Edward C. Hegeler Trust fund Mrs. Mary Hegeler Carus, of La Salle, Illinois, recently promised to make the Mathematical Association of America a yearly contribution of twelve hundred dollars for five years to be used for the publication of mathematical monographs under the auspices of this association. As is well known the publication of scientific literature has been much hampered in recent years by the greatly increased cost of publication. Hence this gift is especially timely and noteworthy.

The letter confirming this gift was addressed to Professor Slaughter, of the University of Chicago, and includes the following significant statement:

If at the end of five years this project shall have proved successful it is my intention to then give to the Association a permanent endowment fund, and I will so direct my legal representatives, which will yield at least twelve hundred dollars annually.

As the great success of the project seems practically assured in view of the wide and deep interest already manifested therein on the part of leading mathematicians the Mathematical Association of America seems to have good reasons for expecting a substantial permanent endowment to aid it in the furtherance of its great cause of improving collegiate mathematics.

There are now three national mathematical organizations in America. The oldest of these is the American Mathematical Society, which was organized in 1888 as the New York Mathematical Society, but was reorganized about six years later under its present name. This Society devotes most of its energies to mathematical research, and, to further this cause, Professor L. L. Conant, who died in 1916, bequeathed to it ten thousand dollars, subject to Mrs. Conant's life interest, the income of which is to be offered once in five years as a prize for original work in pure mathematics.

The Mathematical Association of America was organized in 1915 with a view towards supplementing the work of the American Mathematical Society along the line of collegiate teaching. It has always collaborated with the Society holding joint meetings with it and having a large common membership. The gift announced above will make it possible to collaborate still more effectively in promoting the interests of advanced mathematics in this country. The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, organized in 1920, is mainly devoted to the interests of the teaching of secondary mathematics and hence represents more distinctly a separate field, but it too has already begun to cooperate with the Mathematical Association of America.

The latter organization took steps several years ago towards the publication of a modern mathematical dictionary and has a standing committee on this subject. It has, however, not yet been able to push this laudable enterprise on account of lack of funds. The difficulty of such a work is increased by the fact that at present there exists no good mathematical dictionary in any language, and hence most of the material for such a work has to be collected from original sources.

G. A. MILLER

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

A NEW ALASKA BASE MAP

THE U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey of the Department of Commerce reports the completion of a new outline map of Alaska on the Lambert conformal conic projection,