

MEETING OF MATHEMATICIANS AT ANN ARBOR

THE annual summer meeting of mathematicians will take place at Ann Arbor from September 9 to 13. At this time there will be sessions of the American Mathematical Society, the Mathematical Association of America and the newly formed Institute of Statisticians.

The meetings of the association will occur on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning and evening. At this time papers on the following topics will be given:

- "The Confusion in Secondary Mathematics and Its Influence in the Teaching of Mathematics," by Professor K. P. Williams, Indiana University.
- "Geometric Constructions without the Classical Restriction to Ruler and Compasses," by Professor W. H. Bussey, University of Minnesota.
- "On an Introduction to Higher Geometry," by Professor Tibor Radó, the Ohio State University.
- "Some Recent Applications of the Theory of Elasticity," by Professor H. W. March, University of Wisconsin.
- "Operational Calculus, Its Applications and Foundations," by Dr. Hillel Poritsky, The General Electric Company.
- "Some Unsolved Problems of Topology," by Professor R. L. Wilder, University of Michigan.
- "Early Mathematical Books in the Library of the University of Michigan," by Professor L. C. Karpinski, University of Michigan.

The program of the society, extending from Tuesday afternoon to Friday afternoon, will consist of a series of colloquium lectures, two invited addresses and an unusually large number of short contributed papers.

The colloquium lectures will be delivered by Professor H. S. Vandiver, of the University of Texas, on "Fermat's Last Theorem and Related Topics in Number Theory." Professor Vandiver has devoted years to the ramifications of the theory that has grown up about the attempts to prove or disprove the theorem given by Fermat stating that there do not exist positive integers x , y , z , and n , $n > 2$, such that $x^n + y^n = z^n$. The intractability of this theorem along with the amazing fertility of the fields of algebra and number theory that have been opened by its consideration are among the most interesting facts in the history of mathematics. These colloquium lectures will take place on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons.

On Wednesday morning Professor G. Y. Rainich, of the University of Michigan, will address the society on "Product Integrals and their Applications to Geometry," and on Friday morning Professor G. T. Whyburn, of the University of Virginia, will give a paper "On the Structure of Continua."

The special feature of the program is the joint meeting of the society and the Institute of Statisticians. Papers on probability and statistics will be given and the meeting will also serve as a formal organization meeting of the institute, the preparatory work having already been done at an informal meeting and by committees.

The list of short papers contains some eighty titles, about half of these papers to be actually presented in person. These are synopses of their recent research by Americans in practically all the major fields of mathematics.

A joint dinner of all the organizations will take place on Thursday evening.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. CHARLES ELWOOD MENDENHALL, professor of physics and chairman of the department at the University of Wisconsin, died on August 18, at the age of sixty-three years.

DR. JAMES H. LEES of Iowa City died on August 6 at the age of sixty years. For twenty-eight years he had been assistant state geologist of Iowa.

DR. ELLWOOD C. PERISHO, since 1921 professor of geology at Guilford College, Greensboro, N. C., died on August 14. He was seventy-three years old. Before going to Guilford, Dr. Perisho taught at the University of Chicago, the State Normal School at Platteville, Wis., the University of South Dakota and the South Dakota College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. He was president of the South Dakota State College from 1914 to 1919.

DR. GEORGE HUGHES KIRBY, director of the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Hospital from 1917 to 1931 and formerly president of the American Psychiatric Association, died on August 11. He was sixty years old.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Thomas A. Bonser, curator of the Grace Campbell Memorial Museum of Spokane, Washington, died suddenly at his home Sunday evening, August 4, at the age of seventy-four years. Mr. Bonser was a graduate of Otterbein College and was given a master's degree at the University of Chicago. A student of plant ecology and local geology, ferns and mosses, his collections of Miocene flora of the Spokane region made possible Dr. Frank Hall Knowlton's work on that subject. Mr. Bonser's work in building a highly creditable museum in Spokane with a minimum supply of funds has made the entire northwest his debtor. At the December meeting of the Northwest Scientific Association he was elected vice-president and made the only honorary life member of that organization."