

that to many high school and beginning college students, too intelligent to be ignored, "pure mathematics is to applied mathematics as crossword puzzles are to literature." These potential users of mathematics need to see mathematics work, in order to appreciate it and be excited by it.

In group theory and in linear algebra, which are now beginning to come into high school math, and particularly in the teaching of matrices, I have been able to find very few significant applications which do not require extensive training in other disciplines in order to be understood. One tells the student that matrices, for example, are indispensable in many fields in order to avoid a quagmire of symbols. Can this be demonstrated in applications that are reasonably easy to understand?

I should be grateful for suggestions in whatever field of application, showing the significance and use of change of basis, matrices, linear transformations, and group theory. Details, please.

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## AAAS Election System

The news (18 Feb., p. 843) that the Council of AAAS defeated a constitutional amendment which would have given all Fellows the privilege of electing officers of the association will surely be greeted by many with surprise and disappointment. It has sometimes been claimed that the association is a democratic organization, but terms must be carefully scrutinized when it is realized that the members of the council, who now retain all elective power in addition to their legislative power, are usually appointed.

It is a remarkable feature of the contemporary scene that in a country whose institutions offer many notable examples of democracy, the one scientific organization which seemingly has the potentiality of becoming an authentic representative of American science, by the criterion of popular election by a qualified constituency, chooses to reject that opportunity. If we knew the reasons for this action, we might have significant clues to the contemporary scientist's approach to the problems of power and responsibility.

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