

THE APRIL MEETING OF THE SAN FRANCISCO SECTION

The thirty-ninth regular meeting of the San Francisco Section of the American Mathematical Society was held at Stanford University on Saturday, April 8. Professor R. E. Allardice presided. The total attendance was twenty-one, including the following sixteen members of the Society:

Alderton, Allardice, Bernstein, Blichfeldt, Buck, Cajori, Daus, Haskell, Hoskins, Lehmer, Libby, W. A. Manning, Moreno, F. R. Morris, Noble, Pauline Sperry.

The Secretary of the Section was directed to send a letter of felicitation to the Chicago Section on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary, and a letter of felicitation to Professor Scott on the occasion of the celebration held in her honor at Bryn Mawr College on April 18.

The dates of the next two regular meetings of the Section were fixed as October 21, 1922, University of California, and April 7, 1923, Stanford University.

Titles and abstracts of papers read at this meeting follow below. The papers of Professors Bell and Carpenter were read by title.

1. Dr. P. H. Daus: *On the solution of the diophantine equation* $x^3 - Dy^3 = \pm 1$. Preliminary report.

The author finds solutions of the equation $X^3 - DY^3 = \pm 1$ from the solutions of the pellian cubic $x^3 + Dy^3 + D^2z^3 - 3Dxyz = 1$, and shows by means of ternary continued fractions that the first equation cannot have more than one non-trivial solution, and if it has a solution, it is obtainable from the fundamental solution of the pellian cubic.

2. Professor Florian Cajori: *Recent symbolisms for decimal fractions.*

The author describes the struggle for supremacy of the dot and the comma in different countries during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, as the decimal separatrix. During the past thirty-five years over half a dozen different decimal