THE NRC-AMS CONFERENCE ON TRAINING IN APPLIED MATHEMATICS

This is a summary report on a conference on training in applied mathematics which was held under the joint sponsorship of the National Research Council and the American Mathematical Society in conjunction with the latter's regular meeting at Columbia University on 22–24 October 1953. The conference was organized as part of the current Survey of Training and Research in Applied Mathematics conducted by the Mathematics Division of the National Research Council under provisions made by the National Science Foundation jointly with the Army's Office of Ordnance Research, the Office of Naval Research, and the Office of Scientific Research of the Air Force. Complete proceedings are being submitted to the National Science Foundation as a report under the Survey contract. Inquiries regarding the availability of copies should be sent to Dr. L. W. Cohen, Program Director for Mathematical Sciences, National Science Foundation, Washington 25, D. C., prior to 30 April 1954. Final arrangements for distribution will depend on the anticipated demand.

Purpose and agenda. From the beginning the plans for the Survey included as an important part the arrangement of one or several conferences on the various phases of training and research in applied mathematics. Breadth of coverage and the effective presentation of all relevant viewpoints were to be the primary aim of these meetings regardless of whether or not general agreement would ultimately be attained. Two conferences appeared to be indicated, one of them to present characteristic current research to a large audience of mathematicians, illustrating particularly active sectors of the front along which mathematics interacts today with other scientific disciplines, and the other one to subject the possible patterns of training applied mathematicians to an intensive discussion by a smaller group of persons specifically interested and concerned. The Conference on Training in Applied Mathematics was arranged to serve this latter purpose, bringing together both producers and consumers of applied mathematicians and having them compare their ideas, experiences, and expectations.

In accordance with this plan the meeting was broken down into two parts, during the first of which training programs were reviewed by outstanding faculty members from universities which have made major efforts to provide a home for applied mathematics on their