

NOTES.

THE following data, compiled from the Secretary's records, are of interest as illustrating in a measure the scientific activity of the AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY. The membership of the Society increased from 280 on January 1, 1897, to 301 on January 1, 1898. During this time 37 new members were admitted. The total attendance of members at all meetings, including those of the Chicago Section, was 208; and the number of members who attended at least one meeting was 104. The attendance of members at the Summer Meeting was 44; at the Annual Meeting, 38. The total number of papers read before the Society during the year was 88.

AN appeal has been issued to the friends and admirers of the late Professor Sylvester to assist in founding a suitable memorial in his honor. The intention is to establish a Sylvester medal for the encouragement of mathematical research, to be awarded triennially and open to all mathematical workers without respect to nationality. It is estimated that a capital of five thousand dollars will be sufficient for the proposed endowment, and of this about one-half has already been subscribed. The Royal Society of London has expressed its willingness to accept the trust and to award the medal. The project has been placed under the management of an International Committee, including a number of Americans, among whom are President Gilman, of the Johns Hopkins University, Professor Simon Newcomb, Professor J. Willard Gibbs, and Professor J. M. Peirce. Subscriptions may be sent to and will be acknowledged by Dr. Cyrus Adler, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, or Professor G. B. Halsted, Austin, Texas.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY. The advanced mathematical courses given at Cornell University during the current academic year are as follows:—By Professor L. A. WAIT: (1) Lines of the first and second orders, based on Salmon's Conic Sections, three hours; (2) Surfaces of the first and second orders, based on Aldis's Solid Geometry and Salmon's Geometry of Three Dimensions, two hours; (3) Advanced differential calculus, three hours.—By Professor J. McMAHON: (4) Higher plane curves, two hours; (5) Curves and surfaces, two hours; (6) Fourier's series and spherical harmonics, with applications to physical problems, two hours; (7) Mathematical theory of fluid motion, including

the mechanics of the atmosphere and vortex motion, based on Lamb's Hydrodynamics, two hours.—By Professor J. H. TANNER; (8) Mathematical readings in German, beginning with vol. I. of Weber's Algebra, two hours; (9) Binary quantics, based on Elliott's Algebra of Quantics, two hours; (10) Theoretical mechanics, including kinematics, statics, and kinetics, two hours.—By Dr. D. A. MURRAY: (11) Differential equations, three hours; (12) Finite differences, factorials and difference equations, with applications to practical computation, two hours; (13) Descriptive astronomy, two hours; (14) Physical and mathematical astronomy, two hours.—By Dr. J. I. HUTCHISON: (15) Advanced integral calculus, two hours; (16) Elliptic, hyperelliptic, and Abelian functions, three hours.—By Dr. SNYDER: (17) General function theory, based on Forsyth's Theory of Functions, three hours; (18) Line geometry (Géométrie réglée), two hours. The Oliver Mathematical Club, which is composed of teachers and advanced students, meets weekly.

The vacant instructorship in the department of mathematics has been filled by the appointment of Dr. G. A. MILLER, who began his work in January. Several textbooks are in preparation by members of the department: one on higher algebra, by Professor JONES; an analytical geometry for engineers, by Professor TANNER and Mr. ALLEN; a differential calculus, by Professor McMAHON and Dr. SNYDER; and an integral calculus, by Dr. MURRAY and Dr. HUTCHINSON. A text-book on differential equations, by Dr. MURRAY, has already appeared.

Of the seventy-seven doctorates conferred by the University of Chicago during its first five years, ending with the Convocation of October, 1897, two were given in mathematics.

THE election to the Isaac Newton studentship in astronomical physics at Cambridge University will be held in the Lent term of the present year. Only bachelors of arts, less than twenty-five years of age on January 1, 1898, are eligible. The value of the studentship is two hundred pounds per year for three years.

THE *Mathematische Annalen* for December, 1897, contains an article of more than twenty pages, by Professor M. NOETHER, giving an account of the mathematical work of the late Professor J. J. Sylvester.

WE regret to record that Professor FRANCESCO BRIOSCHI, president of the Reale Accademia dei Lincei at Rome, died

at Milan on December 13, 1897, at the age of seventy-two. A short time ago Professor Brioschi expressed a desire to become a member of the AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY, and was to have been elected at the recent annual meeting.

By invitation of the division of mathematics of Harvard University, Professor F. S. Woods, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has delivered a brief course of lectures on minimal surfaces at Cambridge.

DR. EDGAR ODELL LOVETT and MR. WILLIAM GILLESPIE have been appointed instructors in the mathematical department at Princeton University.

The Rev. CHARLES LUTWIDGE DODGSON died January 14, 1898, at Guilford, England, at the age of sixty-six. From 1855 to 1881, Mr. Dodgson was lecturer in mathematics at Christ Church College, Oxford, the institution from which he was graduated in 1854. Although author of the interesting mathematical works, "Elementary Treatise on Determinants" (1867), "Euclid and his Modern Rivals" (1879), and "Curiosa Mathematica" (1888), and of "Symbolic Logic," now in the third edition, he is best known under the pseudonym, LEWIS CARROLL, as the author of several non-scientific productions including the nursery classic, "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," and its continuation, "Through the Looking-glass."

THE first award of the Bruce gold medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has just been made to PROFESSOR SIMON NEWCOMB. This medal was founded in 1897 by MISS CATHARINE WOLFE BRUCE, of New York, to be given, not oftener than once a year, for distinguished services to astronomy.

MR. N. C. RIGGS, a graduate of the University of Missouri, who has been studying mathematics at Harvard University during the last two years, has received an appointment as instructor in mathematics at the former university.

THE REV. GEORGE M. SEARLE has been appointed to succeed the late Father Denza as director of the Vatican observatory at Rome.