

BULLETIN

OF THE

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

AN ANNOUNCEMENT

With the present issue, the Bulletin will assume a somewhat different appearance. The changes involved have been under discussion for over a year, and were finally formulated and authorized by the Council of the Society at its meeting at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on December 27, 1929.

The only change in topical arrangement will be that the abstracts of papers will be printed under a separate heading rather than in the reports of meetings. The abstracts will be numbered serially throughout the year; references to them in the reports of meetings will include not only this serial number, but also the number of the volume and the number of the issue in which the abstract is to be found, to facilitate cross-reference.

For the immediate present, this change is only a superficial one, since the abstracts that occur in this issue are those of papers read at meetings reported in the same issue. In the future, however, it is hoped that more and more of the abstracts can be printed *in advance* of the meetings at which the papers are presented, with obvious advantages to both authors and auditors. Members will be notified from time to time by the Secretary and the Associate Secretaries of the conditions under which such advance publication of their abstracts can be secured.

It is to make possible the plan just mentioned, and to have greater unity in contents, that the type of matter presented in this issue is segregated from the papers that have always formed a part of the Bulletin. Such papers, including the longer addresses, will appear as usual, but in separate issues of the Bulletin, to be published in the alternate months. The handling of printers' proofs for such papers requires a longer time and is subject to delays which cannot be controlled. The segrega-

tion of types of material which occur in the present issue will make possible much quicker publication of it.

There will be, then, twelve issues each year. The odd-numbered issues will contain the material just mentioned, as illustrated by the present issue. The even-numbered issues will contain only the papers and the list of new publications. While the alternate issues will have different appearances, it will be evident that the bound volume of the Bulletin will not differ materially from previous volumes, since the types of material will alternate much as in the past. The size of the volume will not be affected.

It is hoped that the new form will serve a useful purpose in providing quick publication of certain types of matter, notably the abstracts of papers, as mentioned above. It is hoped also that the segregation of material will be pleasing to the readers, in that the type of matter in any one issue will have greater unity and homogeneity.

Eventually, the new forms, if they meet with general approval, will constitute a framework upon which future needs and future growths may be accommodated without violent change. One demand which is reasonable and which has arisen frequently and somewhat insistently, is for considerable increase in the maximum length of abstracts. Just now, such an action is precluded both by lack of financial resources for further printing and by a natural limitation upon the desirable size of a single volume of the Bulletin. It is obvious that the two types of matter represented by the alternate issues may be made the bases of separate publications when and if the necessity arises and the means are available. On the other hand, the present forms do not constitute, in themselves, a serious change from previous volumes, as has been pointed out. If experience shows that they are not generally approved, the Society may return to the previous forms at any time without marked discontinuity in the series.

Comments and suggestions by members and by other readers are proper at all times. Just now, however, the editors particularly invite them, as a guide to their own action and to their future recommendations to the Council of the Society.

THE EDITORS