

NOTES.

A REGULAR meeting of the NEW YORK MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY was held Saturday afternoon, March 5, at half-past three o'clock, the president in the chair. The following persons having been duly nominated, and being recommended by the council, were elected to membership: Professor Arthur Cayley, Cambridge University, England; Professor J. de Mendizábal Tamborrel, Military College, Mexico; Professor Truman Henry Safford, Williams College; Professor Edmund A. Engler, Washington University. The secretary read letters from Professor Cayley and Professor Sylvester expressing interest in the work of the Society.—The following original papers were read: "On exact analysis as the basis of language," by Professor Alexander Macfarlane; "A geometrical construction for finding the foci of the sections of a cone of revolution," by Professor Edmund A. Engler. Mr. Maclay made some remarks upon the locus of the centers of curvature of parallel sections of a ruled surface at points upon the same generatrix.

PROFESSOR J. J. SYLVESTER has been compelled to apply for leave of absence from Oxford on account of ill health. Mr. J. Griffiths of Jesus College, Oxford, will lecture on the "Recent geometry of the circle and triangle" for the professor.

WE learn from *Nature* that a memorial is to be presented to the University of Oxford by the council of the Association for the Improvement of Geometrical Teaching in regard to the Pass Examination papers in geometry. These generally consist entirely of propositions enunciated without any variation from the ordinary text of Euclid, and scarcely any attempt is made to discover whether a student's answers are other than the outcome of a mere effort of memory. The Association is of the opinion that such papers have the effect of a direct incentive to unintelligent teaching, and respectfully asks for the introduction of simple exercises and of simple questions suited to promote the rational study of geometry.

THE Register Publishing Co., Ann Arbor, announces that it has completed the publication of Professor Cole's translation of the "Theory of substitutions and its applications to algebra," by Professor E. Netto.

Naturæ Novitates announces the death of Dr. H. E.

Schroeter, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Breslau, on January 3, in his sixty-third year. T. S. F.

SIR ROBERT STAWELL BALL, Astronomer Royal for Ireland, and Professor of Astronomy at Trinity College, Dublin, has been elected Lowndean Professor of Astronomy at Cambridge University, to succeed the late Professor John Couch Adams.

H. J.