EDITORIAL FORWORD

Mathematics, besides being an art and a discipline of the human mind, also provides tools for other disciplines. While it is noted for its elegance and logical rigour, examples abound in its applications. Indeed, mathematics has contributed greatly to the advance and achievements of modern sciences. In recent years, with the development of computer technology, certain areas of mathematics have become increasingly important to commerce and industry. Today, the influence of mathematics can also be felt in the humanities and social sciences.

The economic planning for Singapore in the seventies envisages her development into a regional centre of technological know-how and professional expertise. As education plays a major role in the training and supply of manpower with the right skills, the teaching of science and technical subjects is emphasized at all levels. The universities are given the task of training high-level manpower in applied sciences and technology. Mathematics, being a mental discipline and an essential tool to modern sciences, naturally stands out in importance. It is, therefore, not enough for mathematics to be taught at all levels of education, but also greater emphasis must be placed on good teaching, clear insight and proper understanding of the subject.

In many parts of the world, the teaching of mathematics is undergoing significant changes. New approaches, different emphasis and innovative techniques are being experimented. In Singapore, a major change has just begun. A new syllabus on modern mathematics has recently been introduced by the Ministry of Education and is now being adopted by the schools. As the new syllabus has a very different orientation, it is likely that school teachers may encounter difficulties in the teaching. This problem may be resolved at two levels. First, the school teacher has to acquaint himself thoroughly with the new topics and concepts introduced by the syllabus. Second, he should acquire effective techniques and sound approaches in order to be able to impart the knowledge correctly and efficiently to the students.

We hope that Mathematical Medley will be able to render assistance, at both levels. At the first level, while articles on modern mathematics willbe solicited from professional mathematicians, the more experienced teachers are also

invited to write and send in their contributions. At the second level, our members in the teaching profession can use the Medley as a meeting ground for discussions on the teaching of modern mathematics. By sharing their experiences and exchanging their views, we believe that our members will benefit from the discussions. Apart from the teaching of mathematics, the Medley also welcomes news items, problems, solutions and articles on mathematics which are of a general nature.

The Medley will be issued free to all members of the Society. Initially, it will be published twice a year. The next issue is expected to appear early next year. We hope that the Medley will appear more frequently and will improve in quality in the course of time. This can only be achieved if our members will give us their support and send in their contributions and suggestions. The success of the Medley depends on the enthusiasm of our members.

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SOCIETY NEWS

The Society's office bearers for 1973 are:

President:	Assoc. Prof. K.K. Sen
Vice-Presidents:	Prof. P.H. Diananda
	Mr. Chan Kai Yam
	Dr.(Mrs.)Lam Lay Yong
Secretary:	Dr. Leonard Yap
Editor	Dr. Chan Kai Meng
Treasurer:	Mr. Kho Tek Hong
Librarian:	Dr. Leong Teng Kiang
Assistant Secretary:	Dr. S.J. Wilson
Committee Members:	Dr. Louis H.Y. Chen
	Dr. Stephen Choy
	Mr. Lim Chee Lin
	Mr. Lim Nai Tian
	Dr. Peter Tung
	Mr. Yeo Kok Keong

A sub-committee was formed to arrange activities of special interest to school teachers and students.