

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

At its Annual General Meeting held on 19 March 1976, the *Society* elected the following officials for 1976:

President: Assoc. Prof. K. K. Sen

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Chan Kai Yau
Prof. P. H. Diananda
Dr. Lee Peng Yee

Honorary Secretary: Dr. Louis H. Y. Chen

Assistant Secretary: Dr. Chong Chi Tat

Honorary Treasurer: Dr. Ng How Ngee

Editor (*Bulletin*): Dr. Peng Tsu Ann

Editor (*Medley*): Dr. Leong Yu Kiang

Assistant Editors: Dr. Chan Kai Meng
(*Bulletin*) Dr. Leonard Y. H. Yap

Assistant Editors: Mr. Ho Soo Thong
(*Medley*) Dr. S. J. Wilson

Librarian: Mr. Lim Chee Lin

Committee Members: Dr. Chang Boon Chong
Dr. Chen Chuan Chong
Dr. Chew Kim Lin
Mr. Chong Tian Hoo

Mrs. Lam Lay Yong was elected Honorary Auditor.

The 1975 annual report and treasurer's report are included in this *Medley*.

Refresher Course

The *Society* held a refresher course on "Topics in modern mathematics" from 11 February to 10 March 1975 at Hwa Chong Junior College. The refresher course subcommittee, headed by Dr. Chew Kim Lin (Nanyang University), received enthusiastic response from school teachers and students.

Lectures were given twice a week and covered topics in Sets and Logic, Groups and Linear Algebra, Probability and Statistics. The lecturers were Dr. Ling Kiong Doong and Mr. Yap Kim Yew (Nanyang University), and Drs. Chang Boon Chong, Chong Chi Tat, Leong Yu Kiang and Ng How Ngee (University of Singapore). Lecture notes were distributed to the more than 70 participants. Questionnaires were sent out at the end of the course requesting the participants to evaluate the effectiveness of the course.

The following were the suggestions received:

1. With a few exceptions, most participants thought that the course was given at just the right level and that the lecture notes were very helpful.
2. However, not enough time was given to each topic covered. Future refresher courses should devote more time to each of the topics.
3. Courses of similar nature should be organized by the *Society* at least once a year. They should also include topics in mechanics and other applied mathematics.
4. More specialized (and advanced) courses on Linear Algebra and Group Theory, for example, should be given in addition to refresher courses of this level.
5. It would be beneficial to the participants if discussion sessions form an integral part of refresher courses.
6. It would be a good idea to set up a special workshop on the teaching of mathematics.

The *Society* wishes to thank the participants for their kind suggestions and comments, and it also welcomes further views that its members may have regarding refresher courses. These views may be sent to the Editor of this *Medley*.

The refresher course subcommittee received valuable

assistance from Dr. Ng How Ngee (Coⁿvenor of the subcommittee), Dr. Louis Chen Hsiao-Yun (Honorary Secretary of the *Society*) and Mr. Lim Chee Lin (Vice-Principal of Hwa Chong Junior College) in ensuring the success of the course. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Talks

During the period from January to April, 1976, the following talks were delivered:

15 January 1976, "Set-valued measures" by Dr. P. Kranz, Institute of Mathematics, the Polish Academy of Science, Poland;

29 January 1976, "Some aspects of group rings" by Dr. D. McCaughan, University of Otago, New Zealand;

26 February 1976, "Computer assisted number theory" by Prof. G. Harder, Mathematical Institute, University of Bonn, West Germany;

31 March 1976, "Manpower planning" by Prof. R.B. Potts, University of Adelaide, Australia.

Prof. Harder also gave two talks in February at Nanyang University on the recent achievements of Pierre Deligne (Institute des Hautes Études Scientifiques, France) in solving the famous Weil Conjecture in algebraic geometry.

Prof. Potts gave a general talk on mathematics and its applications at Raffles Institution on 29 March 1976. The talk was organized by the *Society*.

Public Lecture

Prof. René Thom of the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques (France) will give a public lecture on "What is catastrophe theory about?" on 7 July 1976 at the University of Singapore. He was one of the two recipients of the Fields Medal in 1958 awarded by the International Mathematical Union for his contributions to topology.