

100 Years Ago This Month in The American Mathematical Monthly
Edited by Vadim Ponomarenko

The American Mathematical Society held its twenty-second annual meeting in New York, December 27-28, 1915. There were seventy-two members present at the four sessions and thirty-seven papers were presented. The total membership of the Society is now 736. The number of members attending at least one meeting of the Society or its sections during the year 1915 was 253. The total number of registrations at all meetings during the year was 418.

There is a bill before Congress to make the use of the Centigrade thermometer scale obligatory in all government publications, in the hope of bringing about its adoption for all purposes in place of the Fahrenheit scale. This is a move in a good direction, but it raises again the larger question of the metric system as a whole, and we wonder whether the United States will be the last of the civilized nations to adopt that system. An article in *The Scientific Monthly* for December, 1915, by Dr. Joseph V. Collins, of Stevens Point, Wis., discusses the question under the title: "A metrical tragedy," showing that at least two thirds of a year for every child in the land is wasted in the study of our cumbersome system of weights and measures, and that this waste entails an economic loss of possibly three hundred millions of dollars annually.

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