

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

At the University of Minnesota, a committee of twenty members of the Faculty of the Arts College was organized last year, with Professor R. M. BARTON of the mathematics department as chairman, for the purpose of meeting all students in personal conferences. These conferences serve to evince a healthy interest in the scholarship of the pupils, provide for their registration, and, particularly for the freshmen and sophomores, have a distinctly moral bearing. The results of some forty-three hundred conferences during the second semester were found gratifying; the students were appreciative of this personal attention and were through this agency able largely to clarify the notions of the purposes of their university study. This is a new manifestation of the increasing tendency of instructors over the country to meet students outside of the classroom in an advisory capacity, a plan that has been found of great value for departmental purposes by the staff of the department of mathematics in a few institutions.

—Excerpted from “Notes and News” (1919). 26(9): 417–420.