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

Concerning Edinburgh University *Nature* makes report as follows: "Since 1914 the department of pure mathematics has occupied a separate building, the Mathematical Institute.... This building contains lecture-rooms large and small, mathematical laboratory, reading-room with students' library, research-room with a library of mathematical periodicals and advanced works, and rooms for the staff. The laboratory course comprises interpolation, construction of mathematical tables, numerical solutions of algebraic and transcendental equations, numerical integration, least squares, graduation or adjustment, fitting of normal and skew frequency curves, correlation, practical Fourier analysis, spherical harmonic analysis, periodogram analysis, with drawing-board work in nomography, descriptive geometry and cartography.

"The most recent development is the institution of a diploma in actuarial mathematics. This is intended for students who are employed in the numerous life insurance offices in the city of Edinburgh, and are, therefore, only part-time students of the University, attending, however, day, not night, classes. The course which covers two years, is conducted on the mathematical side by Professor E. T. WHITAKER, and on the actuarial side by Dr. A. E. SPRAGUE, president of the faculty of actuaries...."

—Excerpted from "Notes and News" (1920). 27(1): 42–46.