

THE MATHEMATICAL GAZETTE

*The Journal of the
Mathematical Association*

VOL. LVI

MAY, 1972

No. 396

EXETER

We look forward to welcoming our overseas visitors to the 2nd International Congress on Mathematical Education at the end of August.

The first such Congress, at Lyon in 1969, established on a firmer basis the many informal contacts built up amongst teachers of mathematics during the '60s. One lesson of Lyon, however, was that there is a limit to the amount of communication that can be achieved whilst listening to set-piece lectures (or, often, to translations of them through the headphones). A different pattern has therefore been chosen for Exeter, with a major emphasis on the 30 or 40 working groups, in which we hope to come to grips with some of the major preoccupations of mathematics teaching at the present time: how to develop creativity and problem-solving skills, the nature and place of geometry in schools, computers in mathematical education, assessment, mathematics for slow learners, teaching "the art of applying mathematics", the place of research, and many others. It is to be hoped that these discussions will mark a real step forward in our efforts to improve the teaching of mathematics on an international front.

There will, of course, be other sides to the Congress: the national presentations, major addresses from distinguished visitors representing a remarkably wide range of scholarship, and many informal contacts around the campus. It should all add up to a memorable week. We are proud to have been allowed to be hosts.

D. A. Q.

At the Annual Conference in Edinburgh, just as this *Gazette* went to press, it was announced that Council proposed to mark the occasion of the Exeter Congress by inviting to honorary life membership of the Mathematical Association four persons of international repute in mathematical education: Miss E. E. Biggs, Professor G. Polya, Professor W. W. Sawyer and Dr. B. Thwaites.