

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY.

THE Eighth Annual Meeting of the AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY was held in New York City on Friday and Saturday, December 27-28, 1901. A single day's session now often barely suffices for the adequate presentation of the programme of an ordinary meeting of the Society. It was therefore decided last year to extend the annual meeting to cover two days, in the hope of relieving considerably the severe compression occasioned by the constantly increasing number of papers presented. The energetic response of the Society's productive forces has, however, been such as to leave the problem precisely where it was before. The reading of twenty-seven or more mathematical papers in two days is, it appears, a possible feat, but hardly one for sober commendation. It is becoming a serious question whether it will not be necessary in the near future to adopt a practice of selection, permitting the presentation, even then in rather condensed form, of more important papers only, those of lesser interest or value being read in severely brief abstract or by title. This plan would possess certain advantages in point of dignity over the present hurried procedure; it would also permit better opportunity for intelligent discussion of important tendencies and larger interests. The annual meeting and the summer meeting stand in especial need of some such relief.

During the past year, the Society has in all respects maintained a vigorous growth. The membership has increased from 357 to 375, the number of papers read from 112 to 136. The total attendance of members at all meetings was 231, and the number attending at least one meeting was 131. The Council has been enlarged and an assistant secretary has been added to the administrative forces. The presidential term has been extended to two years, and the date of the presidential address has been changed to the more appropriate occasion of the last annual meeting of the presidential term. An especially important event was the deposit of the library of the Society in the charge of Columbia University, by which the books become generally accessible to our members. A catalogue will be issued and rules for the use of the library will be formulated as soon as prac-