

node curve is fundamental in this theory. A number of Cremona's theorems on ruled surfaces with straight line directrices are generalized to apply to all ruled surfaces. Dr. Wilczynski gives both analytic and synthetic proofs of these theorems. The third covariant furnishes another congruence associated with a given surface, and in particular a third ruled surface associated with the original one and the one already mentioned. A few brief remarks are made, showing how these covariant surfaces may serve to simplify the integration of the original system of differential equations. This paper will be combined with the previous paper on covariants for publication in the *Transactions*.

E. J. WILCZYNSKI.

MATHEMATICAL PROBLEMS.*

LECTURE DELIVERED BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MATHEMATICIANS AT PARIS IN 1900.

BY PROFESSOR DAVID HILBERT.

Who of us would not be glad to lift the veil behind which the future lies hidden; to cast a glance at the next advances of our science and at the secrets of its development during future centuries? What particular goals will there be toward which the leading mathematical spirits of coming generations will strive? What new methods and new facts in the wide and rich field of mathematical thought will the new centuries disclose?

History teaches the continuity of the development of science. We know that every age has its own problems, which the following age either solves or casts aside as profitless and replaces by new ones. If we would obtain an idea of the probable development of mathematical knowledge in the immediate future, we must let the unsettled questions pass before our minds and look over the problems which the science of to-day sets and whose solution we expect from the future. To such a review of problems the present day, lying at the meeting of the centuries, seems to me well adapted. For the close of a great epoch not only invites us to look back into the past but also directs our thoughts to the unknown future.

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