

THE CHAUVENET PRIZE FOR MATHEMATICAL EXPOSITION

In March, 1925, President J. L. Coolidge proposed that the Mathematical Association of America establish a prize for special merit in mathematical exposition. The proposition was sanctioned by mail vote of the Trustees and a committee consisting of Professors A. J. Kempner, Chairman, Louise D. Cummings and D. R. Curtiss was appointed to formulate the details. This committee presented a report at the Ithaca meeting which in somewhat modified form, was adopted by the Trustees. The substance of the report is as follows.

The committee believe that the proposed prize will exert a desirable influence on the production of high-grade expository articles. They adopted the name suggested by President Coolidge, namely, "The Chauvenet Prize for Mathematical Exposition." For a study of the life and influence of William Chauvenet, 1820-1870, Professor of mathematics in the U. S. Navy, 1847-1859, President of the Academic Board of the Navy, 1847-1850, Professor of mathematics and natural philosophy at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., 1859-1869, author of many works and treatises, they refer to an article by Professor W. H. Roever, in *WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY STUDIES*, Vol. 12, *SCIENTIFIC SERIES*, No. 2, 1925.

The Chauvenet Prize is to be awarded every five years for the best article of an expository character dealing with some mathematical topic, written by a member of the Mathematical Association of America and published in English in a journal during the five calendar years preceding the award. This prize will not be awarded for books, even though a large portion of mathematical books are mainly or completely expository in character, such as textbooks. They bring their own reward in the form of royalties.

The amount of the prize was fixed at one hundred dollars, an amount which the committee deemed sufficiently large to