THE AMHERST COLLOQUIUM

A short program, five lectures on one subject instead of the usual two series by different speakers, proved nevertheless decidedly attractive. The list of those registering for Professor A. B. Coble's Colloquium numbered seventy-seven, nearly all being present on Tuesday, September 4th, at the opening lecture. The college opened the large lecture-room in Appleton Hall, with ample blackboard space and excellent acoustic properties. Professor H. L. Rietz, Vice-president of the Society, presided and introduced the lecturer. As it is expected that the lectures will be published promptly in the Society's Colloquium Series, no full account of the contents is here necessary. Excerpts from the quite full syllabus and from a supplementary sketch kindly furnished by Dr. Coble will suggest the extensive résumé and new researches, which sum up a line of the lecturer's publications extending back at least to 1915. Other authors cited were principally Stahl, Schottky, Picard, Cayley, Frobenius, and the Encyklopädie.

The title of the series was *The determination of the tritangent planes of the space sextic of genus four.* The standard definition of a function theta of p variables is given, by the aid of a square array which determines its (quasi) periods. The zero points of the variables are shifted by half-periods, leading to definitions of $2^{2p}-1$ odd and even thetas and their characteristics. This is ground-work for the proper subject of the lectures, as follows.

If the original periods are replaced by new periods (integer combinations of the old and vice versa) the $2^{2p}-1$ half periods are permuted, and the 2^{2p} odd and even functions also, according to a finite group G_{NC}. A geometric representation of this group is found by taking the half periods as points in a finite space S_{2p-1}, modulo 2. The collineation