

THE INAUGURATION OF THE INSTITUTE
HENRI POINCARÉ IN PARIS

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In November, 1928, there was formally inaugurated in Paris a new institute of mathematics. It was both the official opening of a new building and the beginning of new courses of lectures, all to be a part of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Paris.

The building is now ready, but the internal arrangement and the furnishing will not be completed for some time. It was considered wise, however, to hold the ceremony in the building in order to attract public attention to the opening of the lectures and to the foundation of the Institute.

It was desired to express the gratitude of the University of Paris towards those who had provided the necessary means. The history of this Institute is brief. It had been noted by the International Education Board that several opportunities had led them to give very large sums of money to various universities in Europe, but that gifts to French universities had been on a much smaller scale. Noting the importance of the French Mathematical School, it was thought that helping mathematics in France was perhaps one of the best ways to help science all over the world.

The decision was taken after many consultations, in which Professor Trowbridge, then representing in Paris the International Education Board, and Professor Birkhoff as a great mathematician, took decisive part.

It was decided to ask Professor Emile Borel to draw up a plan. The plan, which was approved, creates under the name INSTITUT HENRI POINCARÉ a center for teaching and for research on mathematical physics and on the calculus of probabilities.

The new teaching positions have been given to three men.