

THE TRIP OF ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
M. H. INGRAHAM IN THE INTERESTS OF
THE SOCIETY

The editors of this Bulletin have invited me to make a statement about the work I am to do during the academic year 1934–1935 in helping to put into operation the proposals for stabilizing the Society's finances. I greatly appreciate this kindness.

President Coble in his letter of May 19th to the members of the American Mathematical Society discussed the financial needs of the Society and the program which the trustees and council had adopted to meet the present emergency. He also outlined the plan which involves my visiting various American colleges and universities in order to advance the interests of the Society. It is hoped that my efforts will be helpful in initiating the plan of individual contributing membership and in securing cooperation of institutions of learning in our program for maintaining channels of mathematical publication.

Since Professor Coble wrote, a careful study of the distribution of papers in our mathematical research periodicals by universities and colleges during the last seven years has been completed, and the annual amount which a university would have to pay as a sustaining member if it were to contribute to the Society \$2.75 per page of publication by its faculty members has been computed. It is of course realized that this will merely serve as a rough guide for universities and colleges in determining the size of the contributions they may wish to make. Besides this, much information has been gathered concerning the publication problems in other sciences so that university authorities can be better informed as to the whole situation which it is likely they must ultimately face. In some cases the financial conditions of learned societies are such that there is little probability that any aid will be asked from the universities. In others, such as physics and biology, universities are already helping by paying part of the publication cost for the papers of their faculty members. It is expected that by presenting as much information as possible to the mathematical groups, the members of the Society will themselves come to a clearer un-