

When I was asked to declare open this morning the Mathematics Exhibition arranged at the Central College, ~~and~~ in connection with the Seventeenth Conference of the Indian Mathematical Society, I readily agreed to do so without ~~real~~ although I did not realise fully at that time what an Exhibition in Mathematics meant. I thought it might be an exhibition of attempts made through the centuries of squaring the circle, duplicating the cube or trisecting an angle; I had no idea of what else there could be ^{in an exhibition} in a science which revels in abstraction and which according to Bertrand Russell is a science in which "one does not know what he is talking about and does not care to ~~know~~ whether what he says is true or not?" But when I had a preview of the Exhibition yesterday evening I was completely taken aback by the artistic set up and the wealth of ~~things~~ beautiful things explaining the thoughts underlying mathematics. It looked more like an Arts Exhibition, and no wonder that it did so for is not Mathematics the most ancient craft of the mind always active and always young?

I was very happy to be told that the ~~idea of arranging a first~~ mathematical exhibition (or more correctly an exposition) to be arranged in our country was in Bangalore in ~~the~~ 1937 on the occasion of the College Day Celebrations of the Central College presided over by the Hon. Shri C. Rajagopalachari a distinguished Old Boy of the College and then Premier of Madras. This idea of an Exhibition in Mathematics has been taken up at later conferences, and

appears to be a permanent feature of your conferences. I am sure
you will specially like the wooden models of geometrical surfaces
made at the Central College under the supervision and ^{expert} ~~of~~ planning
of some members of Staff. This ~~is a~~ I should specially like to invite
the delegate ~~to~~ to visit the Exhibition at 2.30 P.M. today at the Central
College, and I have no doubt you will derive much pleasure and it
is ~~is~~ interesting and instructive

I have great pleasure in formally declaring this Exhibition open.