

Contents

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| <i>To the Reader</i> | | | <i>v</i> |
| <i>List of Names</i> | | | <i>xiii</i> |
| <i>Chapter 1</i> | POINTS OF VIEW | | <i>1</i> |
| 1.1 The object of mathematics | | 1.4 The spirit of modern mathematics | |
| 1.2 A golden age | | | |
| 1.3 Abel's advice | | | |
| <i>Chapter 2</i> | MATHEMATICAL TRUTH | | <i>17</i> |
| 2.1 Descriptions of mathematics | | 2.2 The postulational method | |
| <i>Chapter 3</i> | BREAKING BOUNDS | | <i>29</i> |
| 3.1 Common algebra | | 3.3 Sources of postulates | |
| 3.2 Changing the rules | | | |
| <i>Chapter 4</i> | "THE SAME, YET NOT THE SAME" | | <i>45</i> |
| 4.1 Realizations of common algebra | | continuous, complex, analysis, function | |
| 4.2 Rational, real, denumerable, non-denumerable, discrete, | | 4.3 The end of a road | |
| <i>Chapter 5</i> | THE ART OF ABSTRACTION | | <i>55</i> |
| 5.1 A change of interest | | 5.5 Lattices or structures | |
| 5.2 An uncommon algebra | | 5.6 Subrings, ideals | |
| 5.3 Rings | | 5.7 Subfields, extensions | |
| 5.4 Homorphism, isomorphism, automorphism | | 5.8 Skew fields, linear algebras | |
| <i>Chapter 6</i> | OAKS FROM ACORNS | | <i>94</i> |
| 6.1 Transformations | | 6.4 A suggestion to the United Nations | |
| 6.2 A problem in geometry, variables again | | 6.5 Invariance in nature | |
| 6.3 Matrices | | 6.6 Sylvester's prevision | |

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Chapter 7</i> | PICTORIAL THINKING | <i>121</i> |
| 7.1 Graphs | 7.4 Three suggestions | |
| 7.2 What Descartes invented | 7.5 Intuition into algebra | |
| 7.3 Unnecessary difficulties | 7.6 Algebra into geometry | |
| <i>Chapter 8</i> | LANDMARKS OLD AND NEW | <i>141</i> |
| 8.1 What is geometry? | 8.6 Connectedness | |
| 8.2 Further progress | 8.7 Knots | |
| 8.3 Space of many dimensions | 8.8 One kind of topology | |
| 8.4 Duality | 8.9 Abstraction again | |
| 8.5 Non-metric versus metric | | |
| <i>Chapter 9</i> | GROUPS | <i>164</i> |
| 9.1 Multiplication tables | 9.5 Interpretations | |
| 9.2 Isomorphism, homomorphism | 9.6 Infinite groups | |
| 9.3 Complexes, cosets, normal subgroups | 9.7 The icosahedron | |
| 9.4 Substitution groups | 9.8 Galois theory | |
| <i>Chapter 10</i> | A METRICAL UNIVERSE | <i>188</i> |
| 10.1 From Pythagoras to Descartes | 10.2 From Descartes to Riemann | |
| | 10.3 From Riemann to Einstein | |
| <i>Chapter 11</i> | THE QUEEN OF MATHEMATICS | <i>220</i> |
| 11.1 An unruly domain | 11.5 Algebraic numbers | |
| 11.2 Fermat and Mersenne numbers | 11.6 Transcendental numbers | |
| 11.3 A little about primes | 11.7 Waring's conjecture | |
| 11.4 Diophantine analysis | 11.8 The Queen of queens' slaves | |
| <i>Chapter 12</i> | ABSTRACTION AND PREDICTION | <i>252</i> |
| 12.1 From Maxwell to radar | 12.3 One sort of explanation | |
| 12.2 Two methods | | |
| <i>Chapter 13</i> | FROM CYZICUS TO NEPTUNE | <i>272</i> |
| 13.1 A royal road | 13.4 Mathematical prophecy again | |
| 13.2 Kepler's faith | | |
| 13.3 Calculation plus insight | | |

| | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|
| <i>Chapter 14</i> | TWO KINDS OF PICTURE | <i>297</i> |
| 14.1 | Continuity in science | 14.5 |
| 14.2 | Discreteness in science | 14.6 |
| 14.3 | Eternal flux | 14.7 |
| 14.4 | Ancient philosophers and modern pedants | 14.8 |
| 14.5 | Nature in the small | |
| 14.6 | The scientist intervenes | |
| 14.7 | Integration | |
| 14.8 | Boundary-value problems | |
| | | |
| <i>Chapter 15</i> | THE CHIEF INSTRUMENT OF APPLIED MATHEMATICS | <i>320</i> |
| 15.1 | Rates | 15.5 |
| 15.2 | Higher derivatives | 15.6 |
| 15.3 | Partial derivatives | 15.7 |
| 15.4 | Differential equations | 15.7 |
| 15.5 | Fluid flow | of the calculus |
| 15.6 | Integrals | |
| 15.7 | The fundamental theorem | |
| 15.8 | of the calculus | |
| | | |
| <i>Chapter 16</i> | FURTHER CALCULUSES | <i>342</i> |
| 16.1 | Greatest or least | 16.5 |
| 16.2 | Least action | 16.6 |
| 16.3 | The calculus of variations | 16.7 |
| 16.4 | Hamilton's prediction | 16.8 |
| 16.5 | The complex variable | |
| 16.6 | Conformal mapping | |
| 16.7 | Special functions | |
| 16.8 | Generalizations | |
| | | |
| <i>Chapter 17</i> | WAVES AND VIBRATIONS | <i>357</i> |
| 17.1 | Periodicity | 17.3 |
| 17.2 | The alphabet of periodicity | 17.4 |
| 17.3 | Fourier's theorem | |
| 17.4 | From particles to fields | |
| | | |
| <i>Chapter 18</i> | CHOICE AND CHANCE | <i>374</i> |
| 18.1 | Probability | 18.3 |
| 18.2 | Pies, flies, and concrete | 18.4 |
| 18.3 | Statistics and mechanics | |
| 18.4 | Is probability probable? | |
| | | |
| <i>Chapter 19</i> | "STORMING THE HEAVENS" | <i>393</i> |
| 19.1 | Toward the infinite | 19.3 |
| 19.2 | How the infinite entered mathematics | 19.4 |
| 19.3 | Counting the infinite | 19.5 |
| 19.4 | What 'is' a number? | Dedekind's cut |
| 19.5 | Dedekind's cut | |
| | | |
| <i>Chapter 20</i> | BEDROCK | <i>407</i> |
| 20.1 | Mathematical existence | 20.3 |
| 20.2 | A great illusion | 20.4 |
| 20.3 | From Hilbert to Gödel | |
| 20.4 | To our successors | |
| | | |
| <i>Index</i> | | <i>417</i> |