Zeitschrift: L'Enseignement Mathématique
Herausgeber: Commission Internationale de l'Enseignement Mathématique
Band: 1 (1955)
Heft: 1-2-3: L'ENSEIGNEMENT MATHÉMATIQUE

Artikel: THE FUNCTION OF MATHEMATICS IN MODERN SOCIETY AND ITS CONSEQUENCE FOR THE TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS
Autor: van Dantzig, D.
Kurzfassung: CONTENTS
DOI: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-31358

Nutzungsbedingungen
Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.

Conditions d'utilisation
L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. Voir Informations légales.

Terms of use
The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. See Legal notice.

Download PDF: 02.04.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch

THE FUNCTION OF MATHEMATICS IN MODERN SOCIETY AND ITS CONSEQUENCE FOR THE TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS [1]

BY

D. VAN DANTZIG, Amsterdam

Professor in the Theory of Collective Phenomena at the University of Amsterdam.

CONTENTS

1. Society's growing demand for mathematics.
2. Pure and applied mathematics.
3. Postwar-development in the Netherlands.
4. Flood prevention problems.
5. The social status of mathematicians.
6. Traditional teaching of mathematics.
7. Desirability of a new orientation of mathematical teaching.

1. SOCIETY'S GROWING DEMAND FOR MATHEMATICS.

The degree to which mathematics are applied to other sciences and to non-scientific social activities is rapidly increasing, in particular during the last decades: any convenient mathematical model for it would have to have positive derivatives, at least of the first and second order.

Firstly the number of fields to which mathematics are applied increases. To the classical fields: astronomy and geodesy,

---

[1] Report presented by the author on bequest of the National Committee of the ICMJ in the Netherlands before section VII of the International Congress of Mathematicians, on September 8, 1954 in Amsterdam.