

*Note. \$62.95 paid on account of Program and Circulars before Nov. 30, 1906.

The Secretary-Treasurer Reported a Summary of Membership as follows:

Paid Members, Nov. 29, 1906	358
Honorary Members, Nov. 29, 1906	4.
New Members, Nov. 29, 1906-Nov. 28, 1907	101
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	459
Resigned during the year	22
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Total Membership	437
Expired during year (kept on rolls as per constitution)	100
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Paid Membership, Nov. 28, 1907	337
Honorary Members " "	4.

A MATHEMATICAL NOTE AND QUERY.

Permit a quotation from the paper on "Mathematics in California Schools" (SCHOOL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS, Dec., 1907, p. 764.) "A proof of the commutative, associative, and distributive laws would be lost on the majority of pupils during the early months of the study of algebra; but, * * * at some time in the course, a proof of these laws * * * should be offered for the benefit of the few who can appreciate them." In several recent texts on elementary algebra this view is adopted and proofs of these laws are given. On the other hand, Chrystal [Text Book of Algebra, 5th Ed., Chap. I, § 27] says: "To speak, as is sometimes done, of the proof of these laws in all their generality is an abuse of terms. *They are simply laid down as the canons of the science.* The best evidence that this is their real position is the fact that algebras are in use whose fundamental laws differ from those of ordinary algebra" [the italics mine]. Perhaps some of you readers may be willing to explain fully why it is desirable in elementary texts on algebra to adopt the position indicated by the first quotation rather than that taken by Chrystal in his treatise on algebra.

T. E. M.

PERSONAL NOTE.

George P. Knox, principal of the Yeatman High School, has been promoted by unanimous vote of the Board of Education of St. Louis, Mo., to the office of assistant superintendent of instruction. The appointment is made to fill an unexpired term which ends on September 19, 1909. Mr. Knox has been connected with the St. Louis schools for five years. For several years after his graduation he was an instructor in chemistry at Cornell University.