

I.1 MATHEMATICS PROMOTES THE MIND

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delivered by  
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First I may say that I regret very much not being able to be with you today and participate in the Congress.

The title of this short talk is Mathematics Promotes the Mind. I repeat with conviction that mathematics promotes the mind, but in fact this is not unconditionally correct. There is a condition: Mathematics promotes the mind provided that it is taught and learned appropriately.

I could quote to you examples of mathematics teaching which is quite good to transmit the intended mathematical acts and their proofs but does nothing to promote the mind. Certainly you had yourselves several occasions to listen to such teaching and you could quote examples yourselves. Hence the question: What can the mathematics teacher do in order that his teaching improves the mind. It would have been a worthy topic to discuss in this conference. Yet it is too late. It should have been proposed months ago. Therefore I propose it for the next Congress. I hope that there are some people in the audience who will think about my question, remember it and propose it to the next Congress. I have some ideas about it, if someone is interested we might discuss them privately.

I wish the congress much success.