

EDITORIAL

It is very positive to see that the number of mathematical conferences organised in Ireland continues to grow steadily and the variety of topics expands as well. The column announcing such conferences in the Bulletin is no true reflection of these activities, since, alas, few organisers care to inform the editor of their plans in time for inclusion. In fact, it may be time to close this section altogether and leave the announcements to much faster media like the web; after all the Society has a dedicated webpage at

`http://www.maths.tcd.ie/pub/ims/Calendar-ie/`

for this purpose.

The contributions to these meetings are, however, a wonderful source of survey papers which can give the non-specialist insights into novel developments in all areas of mathematics, pure and applied. Once again I would like to ask the organisers of conferences to bring this possibility to the attention of their speakers: the Bulletin is always looking for good survey articles. These need not to be long and treat a subject comprehensively. Often a shorter paper focussing on some recent exciting new directions can catch the eye, and can be digested, more easily. Fortunately, this issue contains an example of a well-written and informative survey paper.

The new section on abstracts of PhD theses has started well in the previous issue, and I hope that supervisors will continue to encourage their students to submit an abstract to the Bulletin following the instructions which, together with a template, are on the IMS website. Please do adhere to the page limit.

—MM