100 Years Ago This Month in *The American Mathematical Monthly*
Edited by Vadim Ponomarenko

Nature, for February 27, 1919, announces the death of ALEXANDER MICHAI-LOVITCH LIAPOUNOFF who held the chair of applied mathematics in the Petro-grad Academy. "His later, and perhaps best-known, work dealt with the stability of the pear-shaped figure of a rotating mass of liquid, a problem of the first importance to theories of cosmogony. Poincaré had developed a method for the analytical discussion of the problem in 1901, but did not carry out the necessary calculations in detail, and so reached no definite conclusion. In 1902 Sir G. DARWIN announced that he had proved the pear-shaped figure to be stable, but this announcement was followed by a paper from Liapounoff in 1905, in which it was claimed that the pear-shaped figure was unstable. Liapounoff's work was distinguished by the combination of clear physical insight and masterly analytical skill."

At *Oberlin College*, Professor W. D. CAIRNS will give courses in Freshman mathematics in the summer session, June 20 to August 7.

—Excerpted from "Notes and News" (1919). 26(4): 178–180.