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

In the December number of *Zeitschrift für Mathematischen und Naturwis-senschaftlichen Unterricht* is published an interesting paper by Professor W. LOREY, Leipzig, on the early life of Karl Weierstrass, the noted German mathematician, the one-hundredth anniversary of whose birth was celebrated on October 31, 1915.

The career of Weierstrass was very different from that of most brilliant mathematicians. The creative work of such men as Pascal, Lagrange, Abel, Galois, and many others, was done, or at least mapped out, very early in life, from 18 to 30 years of age. Weierstrass, having set out to become a lawyer, at the age of twenty-five became somewhat interested in mathematics, and then spent sixteen years in elementary teaching. He really began his remarkable mathematical investigations at the age of thirty-three, and did not enter upon service in the university until one half of his life had passed. His remarkable work was all accomplished after the age at which many brilliant mathematicians cease their research work.