

MODERN MATHEMATICS
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One morning in mid February an extended session on modern mathematics was held in the Medical Center lounge. C.D. Johnson presided and read from his copy of the *Saturday Review of Literature*, which contained an article designed to enlighten parents whose children are now learning this new approach to math. All the seats were filled, and the audience was loud, willing and argumentative, in spite of an abnormally low level of aptitude and understanding.

It used to be that fathers and mothers were burdened with helping sister or junior struggle through the math homework of their late elementary and high school years. These were terrible ordeals, usually accompanied by impatience, insubordination, caustic remarks and emotional breakdowns and, at times, even physical violence. All of that has been changed, thanks to modern mathematics. The one striking advantage of the new concept is that the terminology and methods are so foreign to all of us old fuddies that the youngsters automatically (and correctly) assume we are completely hopeless and never bother to ask for help anymore. It has been a great relief.