

EDITORIAL

Srinivasa Ramanujan's birthday is 22.12.1887. So this is the centenary volume. Contrary to the usual practice there is an *expository* article "RAMANUJAN, THE INVENTOR OF THE CIRCLE METHOD (22.12.1887 to 26.4.1920)". This is to celebrate the centenary. According to many stalwarts in number theory the most important discovery of this century is perhaps the circle method (see equation number (1.14) of HARDY's book "RAMANUJAN" and HARDY's comments on this equation) and as is evident from the equation (1.14) RAMANUJAN is the inventor of circle method. It is to highlight this fact that we have this *expository* article. (Incidentally this article was the inaugural address by the second of us in the first conference of the Ramanujan Mathematical Society held in 1986 and has appeared in the Journal of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, vol. 21 (1987). It was published there with the understanding that it can be published elsewhere also).

THE EDITORS