1. Schlick’s personal relations with the author of the *Tractatus* began in 1927. From the outset Schlick was greatly impressed by Wittgenstein and deeply regretted his having given up work in philosophy. In this connection, I remember a party sometime after Schlick had returned from England.¹ The conversation turned to some philosopher or scientist who had stopped working and someone brought up Wittgenstein. “There is a great difference, though,” said Schlick. “Mr. (whoever it was) ceased working because of fatigue, whereas Wittgenstein has given up work because of *ressentiment*.” I remember Schlick using the French word, which incidentally has no precise German counterpart and, in a way, is slightly stronger than the English ‘resentment.’ (“*Souvenir d’une injure, désir de s’en venger,*" explains Larousse and adds the example “conserver le vif *ressentiment d’une offense.*”) At this point, the conversation unfortunately was interrupted by someone’s joining the group and was not resumed despite the questions it raised in my mind. Then and later various signs seemed to me to point to Wittgenstein’s particular resentment against mathematicians. Schlick’s awareness of this fact
may have been one of the reasons why, in 1927, he introduced Carnap, Feigl, and Waismann (who was by then definitely a philosopher rather than a mathematician) to Wittgenstein while keeping mathematicians away from him.

2.

In March of 1928, a few weeks after that conversation, it was announced that the Dutch mathematician L. E. J. Brouwer would give two lectures on philosophy of mathematics. These talks were to be the first in a series of guest lectures by foreign scientists — about three speakers each year. The series was financed by a few industrialists whom the physicist Felix Ehrenhaft had interested in this project. The lectures, to be held in the auditorium of one of the university’s institutes of physics, were open to the public. As it turned out, all lectures in that series were well attended by students and faculty as well as by professional and business men interested in science.

Brouwer’s two talks were entitled ‘Mathematics, Science, and Language’ and ‘The Structure of the Continuum.’ While none of the other members of the Circle knew Brouwer as a lecturer, I had often heard him speak in Amsterdam. So, thinking of the conversation with Schlick a few weeks before, I said to Waismann “Why don’t you invite Wittgenstein to these lectures? Brouwer is a stimulating speaker and his topics may arouse Wittgenstein’s interest.” Waismann reflected for a split second and said “That is a very good idea. I will speak to Feigl. Perhaps we can induce Wittgenstein to attend.” Two days before Brouwer’s lecture, Waismann told me that Wittgenstein would be present.