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Some Aspects of the Mathematical Work of J. C. Fields

Most mathematicians know of J. C. Fields (1863–1932) as the person for whom the Fields medal is named. Few mathematicians, however, know anything about Fields' actual mathematical work. After a biographical sketch and an outline of Fields' educational background, we will give a synopsis of Fields' mathematical work. If time allows, we will compare Fields' approach to algebraic function theory to that of other approaches that were followed during his lifetime.