Abstract
Until the end of the XIX century, the teaching of mathematics, both at the secondary and higher levels, was in the hands of engineers and amateurs. With the creation of the Instituto Pedagógico, in 1889, its teaching began to professionalize. This paper studies this process, and centers on the figure of the person that lead this development in the next thirty years, professor Ricardo Poenisch.

Keywords
Mathematics Ricardo Poenisch, teaching, educational reform, Instituto Pedagógico.