Grattan-Guinness, Ivor


From the beginning, the École Polytechnique was an elite preparatory school for Écoles d’Application. Its rank can be seen in the names of its students and professors (J. L. Lagrange, G. Monge, J. Fourier, A. L. Cauchy and others). The article describes early reforms of the École (1799–1804, 1815–1818, 1830, 1850), emphasizing the dichotomy: “whether ( . . . ) teaching should be oriented to really practical needs of engineers, or whether more general theories should be taught” and with a particular view to teaching calculus and mechanics. Extensive bibliography consists of 57 items.

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