

EDWARD DRAKE ROE, JR.—IN MEMORIAM

Edward Drake Roe, Jr., head of the department of mathematics of the College of Liberal Arts of Syracuse University, died suddenly from a heart attack on December 11, 1929, at the age of seventy. He was graduated from Syracuse University, and received the degree of Master of Arts from Harvard University and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Erlangen, where he worked under Gordan. He taught at Harvard, at Boston University, at Oberlin, and finally at Syracuse University, where he was made Professor of Mathematics in 1900, director of the astronomical observatory in 1919 and later head of the department of mathematics.

He published several papers on mathematical topics, principally in algebra, several papers on astronomy and on philosophy, and texts on trigonometry and on algebra. The mathematical fraternity of Pi Mu Epsilon was founded by him in 1914. On students who took his courses he left a lasting impression as a very thorough teacher, and he inspired in them his own deep love for mathematics and for astronomy.

A. D. CAMPBELL

ROBERT MAURICE MATHEWS—IN MEMORIAM

In the death, on October 20, 1929, of Robert Maurice Mathews, Associate Professor of Mathematics at West Virginia University since 1926, the American Mathematical Society lost one of its most promising geometricians.

Born in Lexington, Kentucky, March 20, 1884, Dr. Mathews graduated from Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1906. After three years of graduate study at Cornell, Illinois, and Princeton, he devoted the ten years from 1909 to 1919 to a most successful career as a high school teacher, teaching at the Chicago University High School and at the Polytechnic High School of Riverside, California. Upon completing one year as Instructor at the University of Minnesota, and four years as Assistant Professor at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, he resumed his graduate studies at the University of Illinois in 1924 obtaining his doctorate under Professor Coble in 1925.

Referring to the work of Dr. Mathews, Professor Coble says: "Dr. Mathews had keen geometric insight. Unfortunately academic conditions in the average American college afford little opportunity for the cultivation of such a gift. Nevertheless, when in middle life he decided to complete his graduate work at Illinois, he entered with a dissertation in hand on configurations inscribed in a cubic curve. It appeared after a survey of the literature that part of this had been anticipated. He then enriched the entire subject by establishing an interesting connection of these configurations with sections of the desmic quartic surface. This matter was pursued in a later paper while he was reading widely to lay a sound foundation for geometric research. However, his failing health gradually forced him to put aside his work on several promising problems."

C. N. REYNOLDS