

OBITUARY NOTE

Matsusaburô Fujiwara (1881–1946)

By

Tadahiko Kubota.

On the 12th October 1946, Matsusaburô Fujiwara, honorary Professor of Tôhoku Imperial University, one of the former editors (successor to Prof. Tsuruichi Hayashi) of this Journal, died of liver-cancer in the city of Fukushima, Fukushima Prefecture where he and his wife lived with his son's family for one year, after his residence in Sendai had been destroyed in the air-raid of July 10th 1945. His death is indeed a remarkable loss not only to our University but also to the mathematical world at large. His son Mititarô, who was director of a branch office of Chû-Kinko in Fukushima, was subsequently located in Tôkyô, and is now in Kanazawa. His daughter Shizuko is married to Prof. Yoshitake Oka at the Juridical College of the Imperial University of Tôkyô. Matsusaburô Fujiwara was born on the 14th February, 1881 in the city of Tsu, Mie Prefecture. In July 1905 he graduated from the Mathematical Institute, Faculty of Science, Tôkyô Imperial University, with high honours, a silver watch being awarded to him by the Japanese Emperor Meiji. He continued his study of mathematical analysis in the graduate school in the same Mathematical Institute. Immediately after graduation from the University he was appointed Lecturer in 1905 and in 1908 was promoted to full professorship in Daiichi Kôtôgakkô (The First Higher School). Immediately after that he was sent by the government to France and Germany to study mathematics and stayed in Göttingen, Berlin and in Paris for more than three years. During his sojourn in Europe he attended the fourth international congress of mathematicians held in Rome in 1908. After coming back from Europe he was appointed in February as professor of mathematics at Tôhoku Imperial University Sendai, which was founded in September 1911. Then, in collaboration with Prof. T. Hayashi, he devoted himself to the advancement of mathematical science.

Strongwilled and energetic, he was a very good organizer. He was always very kind to his friends and pupils and threw every effort into his investigations and his teaching, until the time of his retirement from the post on March 31, 1945. It is chiefly owing to his zeal in collecting mathematical