

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE LATE PROFESSOR ULISSE DINI.

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(Read before the American Mathematical Society September 3, 1919.)

THE death of Professor Ulisse Dini in his native city of Pisa, Italy, on the 28th of last October marked the passing of one whose name has long been familiar to the mathematical fraternity of the entire world and it therefore seems fitting, despite the wide separation geographically between the scene of his labors and our own, that a brief account of his life and work be given at this time in America and a small measure at least of tribute be rendered to his genius.

Dini was born on the 14th of November, 1845, of parents highly respected but of very moderate circumstances. He early manifested an unusual activity of both mind and body, thus commanding the attention and admiration of his instructors and masters who foresaw for him a future of extraordinary promise. Upon entering the neighboring university of Pisa his marked capabilities in mathematics were soon recognized and he shortly became the favorite pupil of Professor Betti, well known as one of the leaders in mathematical instruction and research at this period in Italy. Under such auspices and at the uncommonly early age of nineteen years, Dini attained the laureate and received directly afterward a government scholarship enabling him to continue his studies for a year at Paris. During this brief foreign sojourn he came chiefly under the influences of Bertrand and Hermite and formed an intimate friendship with them which extended long into later years. Returning forthwith to Pisa, his active career as teacher and investigator began in the year 1866 while he was yet scarcely of age and continued almost without interruption for over fifty years, being characterized throughout by the utmost zeal and devotion, not only to mathematical science, but to his native country, city and university, from all of which he received in turn the highest honors they could bestow.

Such in brief was Dini's career. If we inquire in a more detailed sense what his relations to mathematics actually