

JOHN IRWIN HUTCHINSON—IN MEMORIAM

On Sunday, December 1, 1935, his friends and colleagues were shocked to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of Professor J. I. Hutchinson, after forty-one years of service as a teacher of mathematics at Cornell University.

Born in Bangor, Maine, April 12, 1867, of typical New England stock, he graduated from Bates College in 1889 and the following year entered Clark University to pursue the study of mathematics under Professor Bolza. When Bolza was called to the newly organized University of Chicago, in 1892, Hutchinson followed him and was in the first group to obtain the doctorate from that institution. He accepted an instructorship at Cornell in 1894, was advanced to an assistant professorship in 1903, and to a full professorship in 1910. In 1896 Professor Hutchinson married Genevra Barrett, of Maine, who survives him. Their home was one of culture and refinement. Mr. Hutchinson was a skilled pianist. He had one of the finest flower gardens in Ithaca.

He very soon developed a comprehensive grasp of certain chapters of analysis, particularly of theta functions and of automorphic functions. His introduction of the isometric circle and its use in the determination of the fundamental region have had a profound influence in the subsequent development of the theory.

He also applied theta functions to the study of the general Kummer surface and showed that it is invariant under an infinite discontinuous group of birational transformations. This concept has been further developed by a number of later writers.

In 1912 Hutchinson had a nervous breakdown which interrupted his productivity for a time. When he recovered sufficiently to resume his activity his main interest was in the analytic theory of numbers, particularly the generalized zeta function. The results he achieved in this line are fully summarized in Titchmarsh's Cambridge Tract on that subject.

A long and active life has run its course, but its fruits still survive.

VIRGIL SNYDER