

FRANK MORLEY—IN MEMORIAM

With the death of Professor Frank Morley in Baltimore on October 17, 1937, there passed one of the more striking figures of the relatively small group of men who initiated that development which, within his own lifetime, brought mathematics in America from a minor position to its present place in the sun. His contribution to this development, through his own untiring research, his scholarly treatises, his wide guidance, and his inspiring teaching, has been most notable.

Frank Morley was born at Woodbridge, Suffolk, England on September 9, 1860, the son of Joseph R. and Elizabeth (Muskett) Morley. He took his A.B. degree at King's College, Cambridge, in 1884, his A.M. degree in 1887. During the period 1884–1887 he served as master in Bath College, England.

His mathematical career in America, extended over a period of fifty years, began with an appointment to an instructorship at Haverford College in 1887. The following year he was promoted to a professorship, a position which he held for twelve years. This was perhaps his most productive period, being marked by the appearance (in collaboration with James Harkness at Bryn Mawr) of two volumes on the theory of functions, and of about twenty of his fifty articles. In 1898 he received the degree of Doctor of Science from Cambridge University.

The period at Haverford was also most eventful in his family life. On July 11, 1889, he married Lilian Janet Bird of Hayward's Heath, Sussex, England. Their three children, Christopher D., Felix M., and Frank V., all were born at Haverford in the decade following.*

The graduate work in mathematics at the Johns Hopkins University, so brilliantly inaugurated by Sylvester, had just before 1900 sunk into a decline, partly because of the poor health of Professor Craig. The death of Craig in the spring of that year, and the retirement of Simon Newcomb from a sort of absentee headship, forced President Gilman to look elsewhere for leadership in this work. With his usual happy judgment of men and their capacities, he invited Professor Morley to become professor of mathematics and head of the department. This carried with it the editorship of the *American Journal of Mathematics*, at that time under the sole control of the University. That he was able to revive the department, to attract, retain, and train graduate students in adequate numbers, and to maintain over a long period of lean years an active mathematical center, is perhaps the best evidence of his executive ability and his inspiring leadership. This was accomplished in the face of competition from many departments much more amply supported and manned, even though for many years the only form of graduate student aid at his disposal was a single fellowship.

He has said that he entered on his career at Johns Hopkins with some misgivings. It entailed, of course, great changes in his family and social life. The entire content of his teaching had to be raised to the graduate level. On the scientific side he had to follow, in great measure at least, not the paths which he might have chosen for him-

* It may be that some of the Bulletin readers do not know of this unusual family. All three of the brothers held Rhodes scholarships at New College, Oxford, a family record which is likely to stand. Also, all three have attained distinction in literature. Christopher Morley is the well known novelist and critic; Felix Morley, now editor of the *Washington Post*, is an authority on current political and international problems; and Frank V. Morley, a Ph.D. in mathematics of Oxford University (1923), is an author and publisher with headquarters in London.