

EARLE RAYMOND HEDRICK—IN MEMORIAM

On the morning of February 3, 1943, the announcement was made from the Rhode Island Hospital at Providence that Dr. Hedrick had just died. He had been a patient with an infected lung since early in November.

When he retired from the office of Provost and the Vice President of the University of California at Los Angeles he accepted a position as Visiting Professor of Mathematics at Brown University, and had just begun his duties there when he was stricken. The shock to the University can well be understood; it was felt throughout the academic world.

It is fitting that we pause to meditate on the life and work of this remarkable man.

Earle Raymond Hedrick was born at Union City, Indiana, September 27, 1876 of Dutch and German ancestry (Hetrig was the earlier spelling). The family migrated to Pennsylvania about 1670.

The principal biographical facts are given adequately in the *Semi-centennial history of the American Mathematical Society, 1888–1938, with biographies and bibliographies of the past presidents*, by Professor R. C. Archibald, for 21 years librarian of the Society. This volume contains a complete list of his mathematical writings to that time, and much of the history of his contribution to the development of mathematics in America. The following statements are taken from it.

When the late Frank Nelson Cole retired from his various offices in the Society in 1921 an opportunity was afforded to make numerous fundamental changes in the organization and administration of the Society.

Hedrick was appointed editor-in-chief of the BULLETIN. This office he held until his appointment to that of Provost and Vice President of the University of California at Los Angeles in 1937. It was a period of unparalleled mathematical development in America, and with it were evolved many details in arrangement, style of type, etc., that have contributed in no small degree to the usefulness of the periodical, such as the listings of New Publications, and differentiating in the contents of odd and even numbers. In this process the size of each volume was practically doubled.

Simultaneously with this development in the make-up of the BULLETIN the standard for the acceptance of material became necessarily high, and the effective presentation of the complex material notable. All this required an enormous amount of personal attention