THOMAS FRANKLIN HOLGATE
1859-1945

The death of Thomas F. Holgate on April 10, 1945, at the age of eigthy-six years, marks the passing of another of the figures prominent in the early history of the Society. He was one of the organizers of the Chicago Section, and was its first secretary, serving in that capacity for eight years. Although the press of administrative work thereafter lessened his active participation, he missed but few meetings of the Society in Chicago up to the time of his death.

His early life was spent in Canada, where he was born, not far from Kingston, on April 8, 1859. From the University of Toronto he received a bachelor's degree in 1884 and a master's degree in 1889. Meantime he had been teaching, first in rural schools, then in a collegiate institute. At the end of his work at Toronto he had definitely decided to become a mathematician in the field of pure geometry, in spite of a comparatively late start. The next year he enrolled as a graduate student at Clark University, and obtained his doctor's degree there in 1893.

At Clark he had formed a close friendship with Henry S. White. The latter had come to Northwestern University in 1892, replacing, in the course of that year, E. H. Moore, who had accepted the headship of the department of mathematics in the newly founded University of Chicago. When this vacancy developed, White urged Holgate to come to Evanston, and in 1893 the latter began his career at Northwestern, which was to last for fifty-two years, as professor of mathematics, dean of the college, acting president of the university, and finally as dean emeritus.

Dean Holgate was fond of quoting John Bunyan's line, "I was once a promising professor," thus referring to the nine years from 1893 to 1902 before he started on the administrative work of his next seventeen years. To this time belong his published papers on various subjects in pure geometry, including ruled surfaces of the fourth order, and loci determined in part by imaginary elements. He had been inspired by Reye's *Geometrie der Lage*, a translation of which he published in 1898. To the same period belongs his text *Elementary geometry, plane and solid*, following the Euclidean form of presentation. At a later time, in 1911, he wrote the monograph on *Modern pure geometry* in J. W. A. Young's *Monographs on modern mathematics*. For many years thereafter he was developing and recasting his ideas on this subject. The final result was his text on *Projective pure geometry*, published in 1930.