open up. He expressed his wish to leave the Institute for Advanced Study and to move to the West Coast with facilities better suited to his plans than those available at the Institute. Had the opportunity been granted him, he would probably have overshadowed his earlier achievements. Unless this testimony about von Neumann's last and possibly brightest scientific goal is placed on record, no balanced view of him as scientist can be formed and no fair measure of his career or his motives established.

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MARSHALL H. STONE

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The fixed point theory started almost immediately after the classical analysis began its rapid development. The further growth was motivated mainly by the need to prove existence theorems for differential and integral equations. Thus the fixed point theory started as purely analytical theory. In 1920 S. Banach formulated and proved the general contraction principle in complete metric spaces, which became soon a powerful tool in both classical and modern analysis. Due to its simplicity and generality, the contraction principle has drawn attention of a very large number of mathematicians. After the period of enormous development of linear functional analysis the time was ripe to focus on nonlinear problems. Then the role of the analytical fixed point theory became even more important. On the other hand, the topological fixed point