R. E. A. C. PALEY—IN MEMORIAM

JAN. 7, 1907–APRIL 7, 1933

Raymond Edward Alan Christopher Paley, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and International Research Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and at Harvard University, was killed by an avalanche on April 7, 1933, while skiing in the vicinity of Banff, Alberta. Although only twenty-six years of age, he was already recognized as the ablest of the group of young English mathematicians who have been inspired by the genius of G. H. Hardy and J. E. Littlewood. In a group notable for its brilliant technique, no one had developed this technique to a higher degree than Paley. Nevertheless he should not be thought of primarily as a technician, for with this ability he combined creative power of the first order. As he himself was wont to say, technique without "rugger tactics" will not get one far, and these rugger tactics he practiced to a degree that was characteristic of his forthright and vigorous nature.

Possessed of an extraordinary capacity for making friends and for scientific collaboration, Paley believed that the inspiration of continual interchange of ideas stimulates each collaborator to accomplish more than he would alone. Only the exceptional man works well with a partner, but Paley had collaborated successfully with many, including Littlewood, Pólya, Zygmund, and Wiener.

From Eton Paley went to Trinity where he achieved high distinction and was graduated with every honor open to a mathematical student. As a pupil of and collaborator with Littlewood he engaged in most interesting investigations of Fourier series; these were further pursued jointly by Paley and Zygmund, who was resident at Cambridge in 1930–31. In the latter work Borel's *Calcul des probabilités dénombrables* was applied with surprising acumen to the construction both of existence proofs and of "Gegenbeispiele."

In order to continue these researches in collaboration with Wiener, Paley applied for an International Research Fellowship. Soon after his arrival in America, however, certain studies of lacunary series which Paley had already begun suggested a new attack on the theory of interpolation and allied trigonometrical problems. These results led successively to the study of quasi-analytic functions, of entire functions of order one-half, and of many related questions. The results of this work are forthcoming in the Transactions of the American Mathematical Society and will be incorporated in the Second New Haven Colloquium Lectures to be given by Wiener in 1934.

In view of the very short time which he had been on this continent, the impression which Paley had made on American mathematicians is remarkable in the extreme. He had won friends and scientific admirers everywhere. He was to have participated in the Symposium on Professor Fejér's lectures at Chicago this summer. We share with his English teachers and colleagues the feeling that his premature death is an irreparable loss to mathematics.

NORBERT WIENER