R. G. D. RICHARDSON

1878–1949

Roland George Dwight Richardson served the American Mathematical Society for more than twenty-nine consecutive years: as vice-president, 1920; as the Society's third secretary, 1921–40; and as trustee, 1924–49. On 17 July 1949 he died, as the result of a coronary thrombosis, at South River Lake, Nova Scotia, his native province in Canada. He was born at Dartmouth on 14 May 1878, the elder son of George Josiah and Rebecca Archibald (Newcomb) Richardson. His mother was a direct descendant of the seventeenth century Simon Newcomb, from whom also sprang Simon Newcomb, the Nova Scotia-born astronomer, fourth president of the American Mathematical Society.

Entering Acadia College, Wolfville, N. S., in 1896 he graduated A.B. two years later. During 1895–96 and 1898–99 he was teacher of a school at the fishing village, Margaretsville, N. S., and then principal of the high school at Westport, N. S. from 1899 to 1902, when he started on his brilliant course at Yale University, A.B. 1903, A.M. 1904; instructor in mathematics 1904–07; Ph.D. 1906.

In 1907 Richardson accepted a call to Brown University as assistant professor of mathematics, with the understanding that he might spend the following year in study and research at the University of Göttingen, where Hilbert and Klein were still active and attracting many disciples. Thus in June, 1908, on the day after his marriage in Montreal to Louise Janet MacHattie, a former pupil at Westport, he set sail for Europe. In 1912 he was promoted to an associate professorship at Brown, and in 1915, to a professorship and the chairmanship of his department. Before indicating Richardson's contributions to the intellectual life of Brown University, we shall pause to survey his scientific research, and the American Mathematical Society when he was secretary.

Scientific Research. Richardson's first publications [1] and [3],[1] appeared shortly after his arrival at Brown University, and were developments of his doctoral dissertation at Yale, where Pierpont was the chief source of his mathematical inspiration. Connected with the theory of integration these papers supplemented and extended work done by Pierpont in his *Theory of functions of a real variable* and in his published papers. In consequence the point of view is

[1] Numbers in brackets refer to the bibliography at the end of the paper.