OBITUARY NOTE
Matsusaburô Fujiwara (1881–1946)

By
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On the 12th October 1946, Matsusaburô Fujiwara, honorary Professor of Tôhoku Imperial University, one of the former editors (successor to Prof. Tsuruichi Hayashi) of this Journal, died of liver-cancer in the city of Fukushima, Fukushima Prefecture where he and his wife lived with his son's family for one year, after his residence in Sendai had been destroyed in the air-raid of July 10th 1945. His death is indeed a remarkable loss not only to our University but also to the mathematical world at large. His son Mititarô, who was director of a branch office of Chûô-Kinko in Fukushima, was subsequently located in Tôkyô, and is now in Kanazawa. His daughter Shizuko is married to Prof. Yoshitake Oka at the Juridical College of the Imperial University of Tôkyô. Matsusaburô Fujiwara was born on the 14th February, 1881 in the city of Tsu. Mie Prefecture. In July 1905 he graduated from the Mathematical Institute, Faculty of Science, Tôkyô Imperial University, with high honours, a silver watch being awarded to him by the Japanese Emperor Meiji. He continued his study of mathematical analysis in the graduate school in the same Mathematical Institute. Immediately after graduation from the University he was appointed Lecturer in 1905 and in 1908 was promoted to full professorship in Daiichi Kôtôgakkô (The First Higher School). Immediately after that he was sent by the government to France and Germany to study mathematics and stayed in Göttingen, Berlin and in Paris for more than three years. During his sojourn in Europe he attended the fourth international congress of mathematicians held in Rome in 1908. After coming back from Europe he was appointed in February as professor of mathematics at Tôhoku Imperial University Sendai, which was founded in September 1911. Then, in collaboration with Prof. T.Hayashi, he devoted himself to the advancement of mathematical science.

Strongwilled and energetic, he was a very good organizer. He was always very kind to his friends and pupils and threw every effort into his investigations and his teaching, until the time of his retirement from the post on March 31, 1945. It is chiefly owing to his zeal in collecting mathematical

books and mathematical journals during his stay in Europe that the Tôhoku University possesses so famous a mathematical·Library. He was a very good' instructor, his lectures in various branches of mathematics being presented in a clear and attractive manner. Many of his students have written very interesting and worthy papers under his guidance. He gave appropriate topics of investigations to his pupils who had mathematical ability. He himself has written more than one hundred papers covering nearly all branches of mathematics i. e. mathematical analysis, theory of numbers, geometry and applied mathematics. Notable among his memoirs, are papers concerning the periodicity of the integral' coefficients a_n of the series

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

satisfying a certain class of differential equations, those concerning inrevolvable ovals in the convex polygon and those concerning the roots of algebraic equations and those concerning differential inequalities. During the period of his professorship in Tôhoku Imperial University he was elected twice as the Dean of the Science College, several times to the member of Council of the University and once as President. He did not however accept this last office. He became Doctor of Science in 1913 and became a member of the National Research Council of Japan in 1923 and was long active as vice-chairman of the mathematical Department. In 1925 he was elected as a member of the Imperial Academy of Japan. He attended in 1936 the 10th international congress of mathematicians held in Oslo, as 'the Japanese Delegate. In his later years, upon the request of the Imperial Academy of Japan, he was engaged in studying the history of old Japanese Mathematics (the so-called Wazan). He made many important discoveries in the history of Wazan and had the honour of giving lectures concerning it in the presence of the Japanese Emperor. His report was completed before his death. He also wrote many significant text books on algebra, mathematical analysis etc, all of which may be looked upon as authoritative in those lines. The complete list of his mathematical memoirs, is already given in this Journal, vol. 42.

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