What though our tempered poisons save
Some wrecks of life from aches and ails;
Those grand specifics Nature gave
Were never poised by weights or scales!

God lent his creatures light and air,
And waters open to the skies;
Man locks him in a stifling lair,
And wonders why his brother dies!

In vain our pitying tears are shed,
In vain we rear the sheltering pile
Where Art weeds out from bed to bed
The plagues we planted by the mile!

Be that the glory of the past;
With these our sacred toils begin;
So flies in tatters from its mast
The yellow flag of sloth and sin,

And lo! the starry folds reveal
The blazoned truth we hold so dear:
To guard is better than to heal,—
The shield is nobler than the spear.

OBITUARY

FRANK MORLEY

IN the passing of Professor Morley on October 17, 1937, American mathematics suffered the loss of an outstanding personality. Born in Woodbridge, Suffolk, England, on September 9, 1860, Frank Morley received the A.B. degree at King's College, Cambridge, in 1883. In 1887 he received the A.M. degree and in 1897 the degree of Sc.D. from the same university. After spending the years 1884 to 1887 as master at Bath College, England, he accepted a call to Haverford College in 1887 as instructor in mathematics. In 1888 he became professor of mathematics at Haverford and continued there in this capacity until called to head the department of mathematics as professor at the Johns Hopkins University in 1900. He held this position until his retirement, as professor emeritus, in 1929. During these years he acted as an editor of the *American Journal of Mathematics,* and after his retirement he continued his connection with the *Journal* as a cooperating editor, being a consistent contributor to its volumes.

He became a member of the American Mathematical Society (then known as the New York Mathematical Society) in May, 1891, and helped to shape its early policies. Later he served as the president of the society. He was also a member of other mathematical and learned societies in this country and abroad, and was an active contributor to their proceedings and their publications.

In addition to a notable power of geometric intuition, he possessed great algebraic facility. While most of his work was in the field of geometry, he made a valuable contribution to the theory of elimination in algebra. During his residence at Haverford he collaborated with Professor James Harkness, then of Bryn Mawr, in the publication of two outstanding treatises entitled "Elementary Treatise on the Theory of Functions" and "Introduction to the Theory of Analytic Functions." In them, Professor Morley's artistic and skilful geometric treatment of many topics is plainly evident.

While at Johns Hopkins he developed and refined a powerful apparatus for the study of problems in inversive geometry. Many of his own articles and those of his students on this subject during this time gave evidence of the development of the subject. After his retirement from active professional duties, he finally found time to carry out a project he had long contemplated. With the cooperation of his son, Frank V., he published in 1933 his treatise on "Inversive Geometry." In addition, during the nine years after his retirement in 1928, he continued his active interest in research, a joint paper by him, together with a former student, having appeared in the October number of the *American Journal of Mathematics* of this year.

Like his illustrious English predecessors Cayley and Sylvester, Professor Morley invented the names of many terms in mathematics, both striking and appropriate.

He was a striking figure in any group. Deliberate in manner and speech, there was a suggestion of shyness about him. He was generally very well informed and interested in a strikingly wide range of subjects. He was of an artistic temperament. While many of his papers and lectures seemed involved to the uninitiated, they all possessed a characteristic artistic charm. During their early days of contact with him, his students frequently found difficulty in understanding or appreciating his many illuminating comments and allusions. But as they learned to know his methods better and were aided by his sympathetic interest in them, they found him most inspiring, and many became his loyal admirers and coworkers.

A. COHEN

RECENT DEATHS

DR. EDWARD LEAMINGTON NICHOLS, professor of physics at Cornell University from 1887 until his retirement with the title emeritus in 1919, died on November 10 at the age of eighty-three years.

JUNIUS HENDERSON, for thirty years until his retirement as professor emeritus in 1933 curator of the museum at the University of Colorado, died on November 4. He was seventy-two years old.