didactic skill and scientific interest. Osgood undertook to improve this situation. His teaching, whether of freshmen or graduates, was careful, clear and conscientious. He introduced a standard of rigor in Harvard mathematics which had been quite absent before. Many students received from him standards of absolute exactness and scientific honesty which lasted them through life. He wrote four text-books which were admirable for clearness and care. He never forgot the importance of linking up mathematics with physics. It is fair to say that to him this meant the application of classical mathematics to classical physical questions, rather than adapting new mathematical techniques to new physical demands.

Osgood pursued a life of scientific activity without haste and without rest. After his retirement from Harvard he spent two interesting years at the National University in Peiping, publishing two books, in English, which supplemented some of his earlier work.

He had returned from Germany at a critical moment when a number of young Americans, with training and ideals like his own, were determined to raise American mathematics to the standard of the subject in Europe. This was done partly by individual contributions, partly by founding and fostering the American Mathematical Society. Osgood was the eighth president. The essential quality of his own mathematical contributions, some seventy in number, was soundness. Whatever he wrote was rigorous and significant. He had a clear idea of what he believed to be of permanent importance in mathematical science, and that alone claimed his interest. He had no interest in the flashy or trivial. He was suspicious of devices which seemed too ingenious, fearing hidden difficulties. When a young man of thirty-two, he was invited to contribute one of the most important articles to the universal mathematical bible, the *Encyklopädie der mathematischen Wissenschaften.* His *Lehrbuch der Funktionentheorie,* which ran into no less than five editions, is the classical treatise on this fundamental subject. There was perhaps little change either in his scientific thinking or technique during the course of his career. In Germany he had such a large vision of the sort of work he would like to do, that its accomplishment and natural extensions sufficed for the whole of his productive life.

Osgood had two compelling loyalties, to mathematical science and to Harvard University. Utterly lacking in personal ambition, he had the highest hopes for the Harvard mathematical school. He took little share in the wider parts of university administration, but was characteristically conscientious in performing specific tasks, however monotonous. He was unwearied in his acts of kindness to individual students, and he treated all with an old-fashioned courtesy which sprang from his deep love for his fellow man.

JULIAN L. COOLIDGE
GEORGE D. BIRKHOFF
EDWIN C. KEMBLE

DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. WILMON NEWELL died on October 26. Since 1915 he had been provost for agriculture at the University of Florida and a leader in the agricultural development of the state. He was appointed in 1920 dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the Experiment Station and the Agricultural Extension Service.

DR. THOMAS ANDREW STOREY, formerly director of the School of Hygiene at Stanford University, died on October 27 at the age of sixty-eight years.

PAUL BLAKESLEE MANN, who retired in 1941 as supervisor of science in the senior high schools of the New York City public school system after a career of forty years in teaching, died on October 22 at the age of sixty-six years.

DR. ELLIOTT SMITH, director of the Observatory of the University of Cincinnati, died by suicide on September 29. He was sixty-eight years old.

DR. WILLIAM WALDO BLACKMAN, professor emeritus of anatomy at the Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospitals of the New York Medical College, died on October 20 at the age of eighty-seven years.

THE Senate adopted on October 21 a resolution designating February 11, 1944, as Thomas Alva Edison Day. Under the resolution, which must have House approval, the President would be requested to issue a proclamation directing display of the flag on all Government buildings and inviting appropriate ceremonies in schools and churches or other suitable places.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLIGHT OF A HEAVIER-THAN-AIR MACHINE

GOVERNOR J. MELVILLE BROUGHTON, of North Carolina, has issued the following proclamation:

Forty years ago, amidst the sand dunes at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, two brothers, then obscure but since made famous, began experiments for the purpose of testing and confirming their conviction that machines heavier than air could be made to fly. In this seemingly fantastic endeavor, which was met with scepticism and even ridicule, they devoted many long hours and days of effort, experiment and frustration. Ultimately their efforts were crowned with success, and on December 17, 1903, the world was electrified at the announcement that for the