

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

### WILLIAM ALBERT MANNING (1876 – 1972)

In the death, at age 95, of Professor William Albert Manning on February 29, 1972, Stanford University and its Department of Mathematics lost a man who gave them a lifetime of distinguished and faithful service.

Professor Manning was born in Salem, Oregon, on December 5, 1876, and spent his early life in Canyonville, Oregon. After graduating from high school he went to Nicaragua to visit his brother, and he spent a year working as a bookkeeper at a coffee plantation. There he began to develop a growing interest in mathematics, and he soon returned to Oregon where he entered Willamette University at Salem. After two and a half years he received, in 1900, his A.B. degree from Willamette. He then enrolled at Stanford University as a graduate student in the Department of Mathematics. At the same time he held an assistantship in the Department of Applied Mathematics from 1900 to 1902. He received his Ph.D. degree from Stanford University in 1904 with a dissertation "On the Primitive Groups of Classes  $2p$  and  $3p$ " prepared under the direction of Professor G. A. Miller. He began his long career as a member of the Stanford University faculty with his appointment in 1902 as instructor in the Department of Applied Mathematics. This was soon followed by his promotion to Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor of Applied Mathematics. In 1925, with the retirement of Professor Hoskins, the Department of Applied Mathematics was discontinued, and Professor Manning became a member of the faculty of the Department of Mathematics. He retired in 1942 with the title, Professor of Mathematics, Emeritus. In 1904-05 he did postdoctoral work in mathematics at the University of Paris, and in 1909-10 he was a visiting member of the mathematics faculty of the University of Illinois. Throughout his career he was a member of the American Mathematical Society and active in its affairs. In 1971 he received a Distinguished Alumnus award from Willamette University.

Professor Manning's principal research was in algebra, his specialty being the theory of groups of permutations in which he published many significant papers and to which he made important contributions. He guided the dissertations of a number of graduate students in this field. He was very generous with his time and effort in working with his students, and he succeeded in kindling in them the enthusiasm for the subject that was so much a part of his mathematical life. His respect for thorough and painstaking work provided an example that inspired many a student's emulation - undergraduates as well as graduates. His great interest in teaching undergraduates was manifested throughout his academic life, and the sound mathematical training of a host of engineers, physicists, and mathematicians stemmed from his courses in the Departments of Applied Mathematics and of Mathematics. His classroom teaching was vigorous, intellectually stimulating, and enhanced by an admirable clarity and wit.

Professor Manning's interests were broad and extended well beyond the realm of mathematics. He enjoyed the Classics, and he read - even memorized - volumes of Greek literature in the Greek language. He liked music and encouraged his family in the playing of

various musical instruments, especially the piano, violin, cello - after his retirement, he himself took up playing the cello as a hobby. He was fond of hiking and camping; Yosemite was a favorite place for family camping trips, with walking trips to the high country. He was active in later years with Sierra Club groups, and he could be found walking from his campus home to Palo Alto until only one or two years before his death. In the last few years, until very recently, he was a familiar figure in the Faculty Club dining room where he took his lunch each week-day. His health was good until the last one or two years when he suffered slight strokes, but it was a heart attack early this year that resulted in his death. Although his wife, Esther, had died in 1954, he was able to live on in the family home on Alvarado Row on the Stanford campus where he has lived for the past forty-six years.

Professor Manning is survived by three of four daughters, Dorothy Smiley (Mrs. Malcolm Smiley) of Glenmount, New York, Rhoda Wood (Mrs. William Wood) of Lafayette, Louisiana, and Miss Sylvia Manning of San Jose, by his son, Professor Laurence A. Manning of the Department of Electrical Engineering at Stanford University, and by three grandchildren.

We shall remember William Albert Manning as a true scholar and scientist, a fine teacher, a long time member of the University, and a genial friend.

Harold M. Bacon, Chairman  
Robert A. Helliwell  
Mary V. Sunseri