

University College Dublin

Report of the President

For the session 1972-73



December 1973

**Philip G. Gormley MA PhD**

Philip Gerard Gormley who was born at Claudy, Co. Derry, on 22 August 1910 learned his pre-university mathematics with Reverend Dr. Neil Farren, afterwards bishop of Derry, in St. Columb's College, Derry, and entered University College Dublin with a first class entrance scholarship and the Limavady Regional University Scholarship in October 1927. He was awarded first class honours and scholarships in all his examinations and graduated in the Faculty of Arts in 1930. He won a keenly contested Mathematical Science Travelling Studentship of the National University in 1931 and was awarded a first class honours M.A.

He studied in the University of Edinburgh under the late Professor E. T. Whittaker, later Sir Edmund Whittaker, and obtained the Ph.D. degree in 1933.

He returned to University College in October 1933 as an Assistant. He was appointed by the National University as Statutory Lecturer in Mathematics in 1937, Statutory Lecturer in Pure and Applied Mathematics in 1943 and Professor of Mathematics in 1947. He gave what proved to be his last lecture to the Third Year Honours Class on 5 December 1972 and after a short illness died on 15 February 1973 at the age of sixty-two. Professor Gormley's researches extended over very wide fields in pure and applied mathematics and included some very difficult papers on the special functions arising in mathematical physics.

In recent years Professor Gormley acquired a knowledge of Russian, German and Polish, in addition to French which he knew from his youth. He was an expert translator into English of Russian research papers, for the London Mathematical Society. He was a life member of the Royal Irish Academy, The London Mathematical Society, The Edinburgh Mathematical Society and The American Mathematical Society.

Although a man of few words who was fond of the remark "No marks for rubbish", he was very kind and was well loved by his colleagues, who have cause to mourn him as a person but above all to regret the loss of his vast knowledge of mathematics which was always so generously given.

**George R. Keating MSc**

The *Report* last year noted the retirement of Professor George Keating and gave a brief account of his career. It is with deep regret that we now record his death on 3 May, 1973. Professor Keating had been a member of the Academic Council for thirty-two years when he retired in 1972. His long association with the College, as student and teacher made him known to generations of graduates. To his brothers, sisters, daughter and family, we express the sympathy of all his colleagues.

**Ciaran Ryan MSc PhD**

The College suffered a great loss with the tragic death on 14 January 1973 of Father Ciaran Ryan in a mountain accident near Geneva. Born in 1934 in Athlone and educated at St. Mel's College, Longford, he entered St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, in 1952 and took the B.Sc. (1955) and M.Sc. (1957) degrees with First Class Honours, and the