

SCIENCE

VOL. 97

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1943

No. 2508

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SIR JOSEPH LARMOR AND MODERN MATHEMATICAL PHYSICS

By Professor GEORGE D. BIRKHOFF

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

SIR JOSEPH LARMOR, MATHEMATICAL PHYSICIST

ON May 19th last the scientific world lost a notable mathematical physicist, Sir Joseph Larmor, Lucasian professor of mathematics at Cambridge, England, from 1903 to 1932, successor to Sir George Stokes in this celebrated chair once held by Sir Isaac Newton. After being graduated from Queen's College, Belfast, Larmor took highest honors in the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos of 1880 at about 23 years of age, J. J. Thomson being second wrangler in the same year. Larmor was called at once as professor of natural philosophy to Queen's College, Galway, where he remained until 1895. He then returned to St. John's

College, Cambridge, as lecturer, and was named for the Lucasian professorship in 1903. From 1901 to 1912 he was secretary of the Royal Society, and was awarded the Copley Medal of the society in 1921. Always deeply attached to his native country, Ireland, he entered Parliament in 1911 as Unionist representative of Cambridge University and served there for eleven years. He received various distinctions besides those mentioned.

Larmor grew to scientific maturity at a time when every attempt was being made to explain all physical phenomena on a dynamical or at least a quasi-dynamical basis, involving the concepts of absolute space (the ether), of absolute time and simultaneity, of

Science

97 (2508)

Science **97** (2508), 77-100.

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