

We must be thankful that we made him our President before he left us. His contribution to school mathematics has been outstanding, and his death is a loss since he had much more to contribute. And to many, from primary school to university, who are interested in the problems of teaching mathematics, his death is the loss of an inspiring friend.

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COLONEL LOUIS MARQUARDT THEAKSTONE, T.D.

The North Eastern Branch of the Association has suffered a great loss through the unexpected death of Col. L. M. Theakstone on 24th January, 1968.

Col. Theakstone had been a member of the Mathematical Association for many years. He was President of the Branch from 1955 to 1957, and subsequently a Vice-President. In addition he served the Branch as Auditor from 1957 to 1965, and as Secretary from 1965 onwards.

Having spent his youth in what is now the city of Leningrad, Col. Theakstone chose as his Presidential Address to the Branch in October 1955 to speak on "A Schoolboy in Russia 40 years ago."

Because of his fluency in the Russian language, he was in September 1941 appointed interpreter to the British Military Mission in Russia. After service in Kuibyshev and Moscow, and at the international conferences at Yalta, Potsdam and San Francisco, he returned to teaching in September 1946.

A graduate of the University of Edinburgh, Col. Theakstone came to the North East in 1931, and from then until 1953, (except for war service), he was a member of the Mathematics staff of the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne. From 1953 to 1964 he was Head of Mathematics Department at Gateshead Grammar School. After his retirement he continued to teach part-time at Gateshead.

During his life Col. Theakstone had many interests, all of which he tackled with tremendous energy and enthusiasm. Apart from his work for our Branch, he had in the past given distinguished services to the Territorial Army and was a keen amateur astronomer. His pupils will remember him for his interest in the C.C.F., in astronomy, in chess—but above all for his sympathetic and inspired teaching and his flair for making mathematics live.

In addition to losing a member and most effective secretary, the Branch has lost a friend and wise counsellor who will be sadly missed by us all.

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