

PROFESSOR J.R. TIMONEY

As noted elsewhere in the Newsletter, Professor J.R. Timoney retired from the chair of Mathematical Analysis at U.C.D. on November 30, 1979. In the above article, he, with characteristic modesty, does not refer to his own major role in building up the department of Mathematics at U.C.D., and indeed, in the development of U.C.D. itself.

As recorded in the article, P.G. Gormley held the chair of Mathematics at U.C.D. from 1947 to his untimely death in 1973. During the later years of his professorship, much of the day-to-day administration of the department was carried out by Professor Timoney. After Professor Gormley's death, Professor Timoney became head of the department, which position he held until 1976. So, for a period of almost twenty years, he played the principal role in the running and development of the department. He devoted himself unstintingly to this and more generally to the development of U.C.D. as a whole. He demonstrated great administrative skill, combining qualities of patience, quiet diplomacy, personal charm and determination most successfully. He inspired a spirit of loyalty, commitment and co-operation from his staff. He was, and still is, utterly dedicated to the improvement of U.C.D., and has worked assiduously to have his ideals achieved through his membership of numerous committees as well as the Governing Body and the Senate of the N.U.I. (of which he is still a member).

He has always retained his enthusiasm for Mathematics. His main interests lie in the "hard" parts of complex analysis - gap series, zeta

function, Riemann hypothesis, etc. As a teacher he insisted on very high standards. He constantly sought elegant ways of presenting material to his students. He particularly liked to teach his students (and also inquisitive members of his staff) ingenious tricks by which, otherwise very difficult, problems could be solved quickly without much calculation. (Questions of this type set in examinations are often referred to as "Timoney specials" within the department.) He was very popular with students and was often the mandatory staff representative on various student committees. He has maintained contact with mathematics graduates and secondary school mathematics through his membership of the committee of the Irish Mathematics Teachers Association and the editorial board of its Newsletter. He has delivered many lectures to teachers under the auspices of the Association, or the Department of Education refresher courses. He has helped to improve the status of Mathematics and mathematicians in this country in countless ways. He has certainly earned the deepest gratitude of the whole Irish mathematical community.

On behalf of the Irish Mathematical Society, I wish him the enjoyable and fulfilling retirement which he so richly deserves.

*Thomas J. Laffey*