

OBITUARY

MISS F. M. A. PENDRY (1892–1958)

It is with very deep regret that we record the death of Miss F. M. A. Pendry in August last.

She was one of the keenest members of the Mathematical Association. She served as a committee member of the London Branch for many years, being chairman for the three years 1950–1952 and vice chairman for the four previous years. She was a member of the Associated Examining Board and helped in the formation of a Syllabus for a Certificate Examination for Technical Students and she was greatly interested in this new approach to the subject. She was also a co-opted member of the Mathematical Sub-Committee at the Institute of Education, for several years up to the time of her death.

Miss Pendry first joined the panel of Mathematics examiners for the School Examinations of the University of London in 1927. Since then, she has acted as an examiner almost without a break. In her examining work she performed her duties with scrupulous attention to detail. Not only did she see that the candidates were treated fairly but her qualities, for example, punctuality, were of the kind which were of great value to the administrators of the examinations. Seldom has an examiner rendered such a long period of satisfactory service to the University.

Miss Pendry was Head of the Mathematics Department at the John Howard School for 37 years, and those who worked under her appreciated the great trust she put in them. Her own approach to the subject was scholarly and her advanced VIth Form teaching superlatively good, yet she could stimulate the interest of the least gifted pupils, filling them with the desire to understand. She taught all her pupils truly to think, and those who were specially interested in her subject she guided with wisdom, making sure that firm foundations were laid.

Her interests were wide and full of human sympathy. There were few countries in the Northern Hemisphere that she had not visited, in some cases, especially the United States of America, as a delegate for a Mathematical Conference.

All who worked with Miss Pendry realise that they have been privileged to know a distinguished teacher with excellent organising ability, a selfless and loyal friend, a tactful and serene leader, and one with the determination to let no difficulty deflect her from her purpose.

V. W. G.