X

JOSIAH WILLARD GIBBS LECTURESHIP

As the activities of the Society have developed, practically all of its publications and most of the papers presented at its meetings have been in the field of technical pure mathematics. In consideration of this emphasis, and of the constant desirability of giving a larger public, in semi-popular form, some idea of aspects of mathematics and its applications, the Council decided, at its meeting in Sept. 1923, not only to sanction the establishment of an honorary lectureship, but also to associate its foundation with the name of the mathematical physicist, J. W. Gibbs (1839–1903), one of the greatest scientists America has ever produced. (Since some of the most important work of Gibbs was published before the Society was founded his achievements are naturally considered early in chapter I, and sources containing further information are there noted.) In this way the Josiah Willard Gibbs Lectureship came into being, and the admirable first lecture on "Coordination," was delivered in New York in Feb. 1924, by Prof. Michael I. Pupin. The title "From chaos to cosmos" under which this lecture was published, is somewhat more suggestive of its contents than its original title. Fourteen such lectures, all by men of distinction, have now been delivered; the attendance has varied from about 300 to 600. Details regarding the lectures and their places of publication are given below. A former president of the Society was one of the lecturers, but five others were not even members. Prof. Pupin had been a constant member since 1889. The eighth lecture contained very interesting reminiscences of Gibbs by a former student and colleague. On account of illness, Prof. Hardy was unable to deliver the lecture which he had prepared, but Prof. H. W. Brinkman kindly presented the material.

The total amount of expenditures in connection with these lectures has been $756.21, for meeting expenses of the lecturers, and outlays incidental to other arrangements for the meetings.

1. Feb. 1924, New York City; Prof. M. I. Pupin, Columbia U., "Coordination" publ. under title "From chaos to cosmos," *Scribner's Mag.*, v. 76, 1924, p. 3–10.

2. Dec. 1924, Washington, D. C.; Dr. R. Henderson, VP Equitable Life Assurance Soc. of the U. S., "Life insurance as a social science and as a mathematical problem," AMS *Bull.*, v. 31, 1925, p. 227–252.

3. Dec. 1925, Kansas City, Mo.; Prof. J. Pierpont, Yale U., "Some modern views of space," AMS *Bull.*, v. 32, 1926, p. 225–258.

4. Dec. 1926, Philadelphia, Pa.; Prof. H. B. Williams, Columbia U., "Mathematics and the biological sciences," AMS *Bull.*, v. 33, 1927, p. 273–293.

5. Dec. 1927, Nashville, Tenn.; Prof. E. W. Brown, Yale U., "Resonance in the solar system," AMS *Bull.*, v. 34, 1928, p. 265–289.

6. Dec. 1928, New York City; Prof. G. H. Hardy, U. Cambridge, "An introduction to the theory of numbers," AMS *Bull.*, v. 35, 1929, p. 778–818.

7. Dec. 1929, Des Moines, Ia.; Prof. I. Fisher, Yale U., "The application of mathematics to the social sciences," AMS *Bull.*, v. 36, 1930, p. 225–243.

8. Dec. 1930, Cleveland, O.; Prof. E. B. Wilson, Harvard U., "Reminiscences of Gibbs by a student and colleague," AMS *Bull.*, v. 37, 1931, p. 401–416.

9. Dec. 1931, New Orleans, La.; Prof. P. W. Bridgman, Harvard U., "Statistical mechanics and the second law of thermodynamics," AMS *Bull.*, v. 38, 1932, p. 225–245.

10. Dec. 1932, Atlantic City, N. J.; Prof. R. C. Tolman, California Inst. Technology, "Thermodynamics and relativity," AMS *Bull.*, v. 39, 1933, p. 49–74; also in *Science*, n.s., v. 77, 1933, p. 291–298, 313–317.

11. Dec. 1934, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Prof. A. Einstein, Inst. for Advanced Study, "An elementary proof of the theorem concerning the equivalence of mass and energy," AMS *Bull.*, v. 41, 1935, p. 223–230.

12. Jan. 1936, St. Louis, Mo.; Dr. V. Bush, VP Mass. Inst. Technology, "Mechanical analysis," AMS *Bull.*, v. 42, 1936, p. 649–670.

13. Oct. 1936, New York City; Prof. H. N. Russell, Princeton U., "Model stars," AMS *Bull.*, v. 43, 1937, p. 49–77.

14. Dec. 1937, Indianapolis, Ind.; Prof. C. A. Kraus, Brown U., "The present status of the theory of electrolytes," AMS *Bull.*, v. 44, 1938, p. 361–383.