CHRISTINE MARY HAMILL

J. A. TODD.

Christine Mary Hamill was born in London on July 24, 1923. She was educated at St. Paul's Girls' School, and later at the Perse School for Girls, and went up to Newnham College, Cambridge, as a Caroline Turle scholar in 1942. Her undergraduate career was one of distinction; she obtained a First Class in Part I of the Mathematical Tripos in 1943, was a wrangler in 1945, and obtained distinction in Part III in 1946. In this year she was awarded a college studentship and a D.S.I.R. grant, and remained in Cambridge to work for a Ph.D. She was elected to a research fellowship at Newnham in 1948, and took her Ph.D. degree in 1950. In the same year she was appointed assistant lecturer in mathematics at the University of Sheffield, being promoted to a full lectureship two years later. In 1954 she accepted a post as lecturer at University College, Ibadan. During her four terms there, she served as Warden of the women's hall of residence. She was to have been married in the summer of 1956, but in March she contracted poliomyelitis, and died, after two days illness, on March 24.

Her three published papers are all based on her Cambridge dissertation. This work contains a detailed study of the finite primitive collineation groups which contain homologies of period two. Starting with a detailed analysis of the geometrical configuration formed by the centres and invariant primes of the homologies, she was able, by a very thorough and careful investigation, to obtain, for each of the groups, the distribution of the operations in conjugate sets, and to make the nature of these operations clear. As the order of one of the groups considered exceeded 300,000,000, it can be appreciated that this work called for patience and ability to comprehend the various aspects of a complicated geometrical figure. The groups concerned are of interest from various points of view, and the detailed results contained in her papers contain something of permanent value.

Christine Hamill was a highly gifted teacher, combining clarity in exposition with a real understanding of the difficulties of weak students; even as early as her days as a Newnham don, the effects of her teaching in college were remarked on by an external examiner in the Tripos. Her natural talent for organization found ample scope in her numerous activities outside the classroom, particularly in her last months at Ibadan. Most of all, she will be remembered for her natural and innate friendliness, for her complete sincerity, and for her strength of character, fortified by a firm Christian faith, and a loyal acceptance of all that that implied. Her many friends, both in England and Nigeria, will mourn her untimely death and remember her with affection.

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Papers.

1. " On a finite group of order 576 ", *Proc. Cambridge Phil. Soc.*, 44 (1948), 26–36.
2. " On a finite group of order 6,531,840 ", *Proc. London Math. Soc.* (2), 52 (1951), 401–454.
3. " A collineation group of order $2^{13} \cdot 3^5 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7$ ", *Proc. London Math. Soc.* (3), 3 (1953), 54–74.