



Sincerely yours  
Maxime Böcher

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In the death of MAXIME BÔCHER, September 12, 1918, at the age of fifty-one, mathematics in America sustained a great loss. His scientific work is well known to readers of the TRANSACTIONS, in which have appeared many of his most important papers, beginning with its first volume; a summary of his contributions to mathematics will appear in the Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society. For twenty-seven years he was a member of the department of mathematics in Harvard University. His clarity of style and charm of presentation in the lecture room were unforgettable; his fertility of ideas, his wide scholarship, his keen critical judgment, his patience and sympathy made him an ideal guide to those beginning a career of research. He had taken a prominent part in the American Mathematical Society, of which he was President in the years 1908-1910.

Not the least valuable of his services to mathematics was his editorial work for the Annals of Mathematics and for this journal. He was a member of the Editorial Board of the latter, and Editor-in-chief, during the years from 1908 to 1914, the year 1910 excepted. His wide acquaintance with mathematical literature and his critical insight fitted him uniquely for this work. His standard was high. No contribution received his approval merely because of the reputation of the author, but if he saw real merit in the work of an inexperienced writer he was liberal in encouragement and suggestion. The present Board of Editors here expresses their great indebtedness for the invaluable advice and assistance which he continued to give up to the time of his death.

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