

from a biographical memoir that Hardy wrote in 1920.

It was his insight into algebraical formulae, transformations of infinite series, and so forth, that was most amazing. On this side most certainly I have never met his equal, and I can compare him only with Euler or Jacobi. He worked, far more than the majority of modern mathematicians, by induction from numerical examples; all of his congruence properties of partitions, for example, were discovered in this way. But with his memory, his patience, and his power of calculation, he combined a power of generalization, a feeling for form, and a capacity for rapid modification of his hypotheses, that were often really startling, and made him, in his own peculiar field, without a rival in his day.

The next quotation is from Professor Richard Askey, who has for several years been interested in Ramanujan's work and has contributed greatly to pursuing threads originating in Ramanujan's work. I shall read from some of what he said earlier this year.

... in the spring of 1976 George Andrews went to Europe for a meeting and stopped in Cambridge to see what old manuscripts [of Ramanujan] he could find. One find was not a manuscript but 140 pages formulas in Ramanujan's handwriting. . . These

pages are not dated, but from internal evidence they were written late in Ramanujan's life, much of it in his last year. Two thirds of the pages deal with basic hypergeometric series and most of this work is significantly deeper than Ramanujan's earlier work on the same subject. Try to imagine the quality of Ramanujan's mind, one which drove him to work unceasingly while deathly ill, and one great enough to grow deeper while his body became weaker. I stand in awe of his accomplishments; understanding is beyond me. We would admire any mathematician whose life's work was half of what Ramanujan found in the last year of his life while he was dying.

And finally from R. A. Rankin, who was responsible for preserving the lost note book of Ramanujan to which Professor Askey refers. In a recent article he has written,

"Undoubtedly, his most fruitful period was the six years between his arrival in Cambridge and death in Madras. What he accomplished during this time is truly remarkable, particularly when one considers that he was rarely out of bed during his last three years."

Yes, there were men amongst us!

NEWS

TESTS OF ARTIFICIAL GLASS BLOWER

A high-speed automatic machine for blowing electric bulbs is undergoing tests at the leading plant of the Iskra association in Lvov, the Ukraine. The annual capacity of the production line is 400 million bulbs. The molten glass mass getting between two rollers, turns into a continuously rolled tape moving at a speed of 75 meters per minute. In 60 seconds, various devices blow and shape 1,000 bulbs of very accurate size. This is important for the assembling of electric lamps.

The amount of bulbs turned out by the automatic machine is sufficient to meet domestic needs and for export to the CMEA countries. Experts from Iskra believe that such machines can also be used for producing egg-shell laboratory and house-hold glass-ware and New Year's tree decorations by replacing a considerable part of ineffective equipment. (*Soviet Features*, Vol. XXIV, No. 136, September 10, 1985)