HAROLD A. WHITE

March 4, 1933—July 27, 1965

Obituary Notice

The untimely tragic death of Harold A. White has removed from the ranks of mathematical biologists a brilliant young scientist and a close friend of many present and past members of the Committee on Mathematical Biology of the University of Chicago.

Harold A. White was born on March 4, 1933. He did his undergraduate work at Fenn College, Cleveland, Ohio, where he received his B.A. degree in 1955. In the autumn of 1955 he entered the University of Chicago and began his studies toward a Ph.D. degree in the Committee on Mathematical Biology, working under the direction of Professor H. D. Landahl. While doing his graduate work he was appointed Research Assistant in Mathematical Biology in January 1960. He held that position until October 1961, when he was awarded a predoctoral Traineeship in Mathematical Biology, under a training program supported by a grant from the United States Public Health Service to the University of Chicago. While working as a Research Assistant in the Committee on Mathematical Biology, he was also teaching mathematics at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

White's first paper, published in this journal in 1961, deals with the formation of cell assemblies. Later his interest shifted to problems of visual perception. His Ph.D. thesis deals with visual adaptation. It was published in two parts in this journal in 1962 and 1963. Of late he became interested in numerous other problems connected with mathematical biology. His last paper, which appeared posthumously, is entitled, "Entropy in a Continuous Distribution," and deals with problems that have a bearing on genetics.

After receiving his doctorate in mathematical biology in 1962 White accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Hawaii where, among his other duties, he continued his work in mathematical biology. On July 27, 1965 he went on a hike with his four year

old son, as they frequently did.   Walking on the cliffs overlooking Hanauma Bay, they fell off a 30 foot cliff and both died.

Harold White was a man of broad interests, great talent, and an unshakable integrity.   He was a very quiet, friendly person and commanded respect and friendship from all who knew him.   One of his most characteristic traits was his freedom from and disdain of what he rightly regarded as prejudices. No amount of social pressure or criticism by less broadminded persons would swerve him from a path which he felt was right.

In 1958 he married Theresa Jean Riley, then a student in mathematics at the University of Chicago.   There were three children, Isaac Daniel, born in 1961; Gabriel, born in 1963; and Jacob Michael, born in 1965.

N. RASHEVSKY