

MRS. MAUD CATHERINE BAKER

At an age when most of us are looking forward to leisure, Mrs. Maud Catherine Baker began her work with the Congress. She was forty-eight, her family had grown up, and she had in mind that light work might divert her. She reckoned without Lloyd Williams and her own quick interest. They began in a small way with a typewriter in an office in the Williams' home and very little else; Mrs. Baker brought stationery from home. Her early duties included walking the dog.

Throughout the year, her duties increased and the office furniture accumulated in a series of passages from the first office in McGill Engineering Building to an office in Ecole Polytechnique and finally to the present office. Once Williams called the Montreal office from the Seminar meeting in Victoria College, Toronto; they badly needed secretarial help. The Baker family loaded Mrs. Baker on a train complete with typewriter - by no means portable. After that, it became understood that Mrs. Baker would attend all the seminars.

She came to know all the mathematicians of Canada and they learned to respect her quick intelligence, her immense readiness to help. She likes to remember that many of the men now prominent in Canadian mathematics were graduate students when she began.

Mrs. Baker gave twenty years of her life to the Congress, twenty years of devoted service and her hours at the office often extended far into the night. She gave generously to the Congress for she knew no other way to give.

Our affection goes with her in her retirement. She proposes to live with her daughter in Stamford, Connecticut. Characteristically, she is planning to have a little light office work to divert her.

