

**KATHARINE ELIZABETH O'BRIEN**, mathematician, teacher, and poet. With Bates' Bachelor's and Cornell's Mathematics Master's in hand, and Phi Beta Kappa witness to her scholarly brilliance, this young instructor at the College of New Rochelle within a scant eleven years was Chairman of the Department of Mathematics. Forsaking all this to earn the rigorous Doctorate in Mathematics of Brown University, she has since inspired generations of young students with her enthusiasm for mathematics, exacting the discipline always necessary for high achievement. Beyond her duty as head of mathematics in Portland's Deering High School, she is on the faculty of the University of Maine in Portland, and makes time to range widely in writing, from articles on *The Logarithmic Function* to bountiful light verse. In her poetry, her rare mind and spirit shine through as she describes the reward of a teacher's "proud moments to remember:"

“The shade of passing doubt upon a brow,  
The light of understanding in an eye,  
The eager mind that grapples with the How,  
And hurls its force upon the larger Why.  
I know the hush, the sudden still of wonder  
That falls like magic for a breathless space  
When veil of mystery is torn asunder  
And truth and youth are standing face to face.”

*Honoris Causa*, DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS