ABSTRACT. When A and B are closed subspaces of a Hilbert space X, and P_A, P_B are the corresponding orthogonal projections, von Neumann showed that

$$(\alpha) \quad [(I - P_A)(I - P_B)]^n(x) \to (I - P_{\overline{A+B}})(x) \qquad (x \in X).$$

This result is extended by replacing X with any smooth and uniformly convex Banach space, and A and B any closed subspaces whose corresponding metric projections P_A, P_B are linear. Further, it is shown that (α) holds whenever X is a uniformly smooth and uniformly convex Banach space and A, B closed subspace such that $A+B$ is closed.