

IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM BRODBECK HERMS

1876-1949

William Brodbeck Herms, Professor of Parasitology, Emeritus, passed away suddenly on May 9, 1949 as a result of a heart attack.

In reviewing his career of many facets, it is difficult to decide where the emphasis should be placed, as he was a dynamic leader in every undertaking to which he directed his unbounded energies. As a scientist, his colleagues had elected him to the presidency of both of the national entomological societies—The Entomological Society of America and the American Association of Economic Entomologists, a distinction that is shared with only one other person in the last half century. His long service with the Boy Scouts of America had brought him the title of "Councilor of Boy Scouts of the Western States and Hawaii." The citizens of Berkeley had awarded him the Benjamin Ide Wheeler medal for distinguished citizenship for long service on the Berkeley Board of Education and in other civic enterprises. He was president of the California State Automobile Association at the time of his death. Surpassing all these citations, however, are the memories in the minds of thousands of former students of an ideal college teacher—scholarly, friendly, approachable, and infinitely wise.

He was born at Portsmouth, Ohio on September 22, 1876. He graduated from the local school in 1894, and although his heart was set on a career in medicine, his finances were such that he was forced to enter business for four years to accumulate sufficient funds to make possible a college career. He then entered Baldwin-Wallace College from which he was graduated in 1902.

From early boyhood he had seen the ravages of malaria that followed the annual spring flood of the Ohio River, and with the impetus of Sir Ronald Ross' discovery of the transmission of this disease by anopheline mosquitoes, his interests turned to medical entomology. He consistently emphasized the ecological aspects for, as he once phrased it himself, he had "an overwhelming desire to know what goes on in Nature in the Rough."

He won fellowships at Western Reserve, Ohio State, and Harvard. During this time he did pioneering work on the reactions of insects to light which is still considered an authoritative, accurate, and effective starting point for all workers in this field.

In 1908, he was selected from a relatively large field of applicants, several of whom became outstanding figures in entomology, to become Assistant Professor of Parasitology at the University of California. Incidentally, he was the first person to

hold an academic title in the field of parasitology in the United States.

In the winter of 1909-1910, business men and fruit growers in the Placer foothill country near Penryn asked his aid in reducing the ravages of malaria in that area. He planned an educational campaign among adult groups and in the public schools and, in addition, undertook with the help of his students to carry on an intensive mosquito control campaign over an area of eight square miles. This was the first anti-malarial mosquito control campaign to be conducted in the United States. The district involved was one where a small amount of well planned work was able to accomplish results that verged on the miraculous.

As a result, Professor Herms was called to first one area and then to another to inaugurate mosquito abatement programs for the control of malaria. In many cases it was an up-hill fight, as some local Chambers of Commerce bitterly resented the implication that their communities were centers of malarial infection. With true missionary zeal, however, he fought on, even in the face of personal violence, and lived to see malaria almost eradicated from his adopted state. His record in the control of malaria is shared by but few other scientists in the world. For many years he was Consulting Parasitologist for the State Department of Public Health, and from 1930 until his death he was a Trustee of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, being President of the Board of Trustees in 1949.

It is obvious from his bibliography that he was primarily interested in applicable results, but a perusal of the contents of his papers indicates that he was never interested in what might be called empirical investigations. He used the tools of basic science and was never completely content until he had answered the ultimate "Why" in every piece of research he undertook.

When World War I was imminent, he volunteered his services and was made a Captain and later a Major in the Sanitary Corps. After duty in Texas, he became the Sanitary Inspector at the Port of Embarkation, Newport News, Virginia, where he supervised anti-malarial mosquito control over a widespread encampment area in tide-water-Virginia, with spectacularly successful results. Although over-age at the outset of World War II, he was again called to active duty as a Lieutenant Colonel and supervised the training in Environmental Sanitation for the thousands of prospective army physicians who were indoctrinated at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Returning from World War I he was made head of the Division of Entomology and Parasitology in 1919, a position he held with distinc-

tion until shortly before his retirement on September 22, 1946.

His text, "Medical Entomology" is one of the most widely used references on the subject in the United States. It is characteristic of his sense of responsibility and his unquenchable urge to keep abreast of his field, that he completed the final typescript of the fourth edition of this work on the day preceding his death.

William Brodbeck Herms was a keen scientist of international repute; an inspiring teacher for many generations of college students; a conscientious citizen who gave of his services unstintingly to all worthy civic proposals; and lastly, a kindly friend whose council was sought in times of trouble, doubt or indecision by countless acquaintances.

His interest in students was University-wide; he was high in the councils of Alpha Kappa

Lambda, whose Alpha chapter was formed at Berkeley, and an ardent supporter of the University Masonic Club to which he gave many years of devoted service.

His wide range of friends in all walks of life sympathize with his widow and sons, and mourn his passing; but glory in the fact that because of his living, their lives were made richer and brighter by his presence and example.

Stanley B. Freeborn
Harold F. Gray
Robert T. Legge
Robert L. Usinger

(Note: MOSQUITO NEWS has printed the foregoing tribute to Professor Herms and included the reproduction of his portrait through the courtesy of the California Mosquito Control Association.)

PERCY N. ANNAND

1898-1950

Dr. Percy N. Annand, Chief of the Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture died on March 29, 1950 following a prolonged illness.

Dr. Annand was widely known for his contributions to the field of entomology, both as a researcher and administrator. Although his research was mainly in the agricultural and horticultural aspects of entomology, he fully recognized the importance of the medical and veterinary branches of the science.

Under Dr. Annand's administration of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine the recent important advances in the insecticide field took place, including the development by the Bureau of DDT and various repellents for the protection of military personnel from insect-borne diseases.

Dr. Annand was born in Telluride, Colorado

on November 16, 1898. He received his B.S. degree from Colorado Agriculture College in 1920, his M.A. from Leland-Stanford University in 1922 and a Ph.D. from the latter institution in 1928. He was a member or fellow of many scientific societies and served as president of the American Association of Economic Entomologists in 1943. The Department of Agriculture assigned Dr. Annand to investigate a serious insect-borne disease of sugar beets when he joined the staff in 1929. To the solution of this problem he made notable contributions. Before becoming Chief of the Bureau in 1941 he was Assistant Chief of the Bureau's Division of Truck Crop and Garden Insect Investigations, Chief of the Division of Cereal and Forage Insect Investigations and Assistant Chief of the Bureau in Charge of Research.

In Dr. Annand's death the nation has lost an outstanding scientific leader. F. C. Bishopp