



LELAND OSSIAN HOWARD

1857-1950

In the death of Doctor Leland Ossian Howard in Bronxville, New York, on May 1, 1950, the world lost one of its most eminent entomologists. Medical entomology was a major field of interest to him and his contributions, particularly to our knowledge of mosquitoes, are monumental.

Dr. Howard was born in Rockford, Illinois, on June 11, 1857, graduated from Cornell University in 1883, and received his Doctor of Science degree from Georgetown University in 1896. He was the recipient of honorary degrees, including an M.D. degree, from several universities. His scientific work on mosquitoes, flies, and the natural control of destructive insects, and his popularization of control procedures attracted attention the world over and brought him various foreign honors, including Officer of the Legion of Honor of France and Officer of the Order of Agricultural Merit of France. He was a member and officer of many scientific societies, permanent secretary of the American Association for Advancement of Science for many years and twice president of that organization.

Dr. Howard was an engaging conversationalist and a voluminous writer. Probably his most important contributions on various aspects of the mosquito problem are his early tests on the use of kerosene as a mosquito larvicide (1892 and 1900) and the popularization of that method of control; his book "Mosquitoes, How They Live, How They Carry Disease, How They are Classified, How They May Be Destroyed," published in 1901 and the four-volume work by Howard, Dyar, and Knab "The Mosquitoes of North and Central America and the West Indies," published in 1914-1917. His books "The House Fly, Disease Carrier" and the "Insect Menace" were among the widely read books in the entomological field.

As Chief of the Division of Entomology, later the Bureau of Entomology, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture from 1894 to his retirement in 1927, and as a world traveler, he exerted a wide influence on all aspects of entomology throughout the globe. F. C. Bishop