



DR. ROBERT MATHESON (1881-1958)

Dr. Robert Matheson, Professor of Entomology, Emeritus, at Cornell University, a pioneer worker in the field of mosquito control in this country, died on December 14, 1958 at the age of 77 in Princeton, New Jersey.

Professor Matheson was born on December 20, 1881 in West River, Nova Scotia, and came to Cornell as an undergraduate student where he was to receive the degrees of B.S.A. (1906), M.S. (1907), and Ph.D. (1911). Except for the years 1907-09 during which he served as instructor, then Professor of Entomology at the South Dakota State College and State Entomologist of that State, and the year '12-'13 when he returned to Nova Scotia to serve as Assistant Professor of Zoology and Entomology in the Agricultural College and as Provincial Entomologist, Professor Matheson spent all of his professional career at Cornell. His first appointment there was in 1907 as assistant in biology, following which he held successively the posts of instructor ('10-'12), Assistant Professor of Entomology ('12 and '14-'22), Professor of Entomology ('23-'49) and Professor Emeritus 1949 until his death.

Professor Matheson was the author of three textbooks and some 125 papers in scientific journals as well as of several experiment station bulletins. He was an authority on medical entomology. Many of his scientific papers were on this subject. He is best known perhaps among mosquito control workers far and wide for his "Handbook of the Mosquitoes of North America," which was first published in 1929 and in revised edition in 1944. This Handbook made available for the first time an authoritative guide for students, public health workers and practicing entomologists in this country who were interested in mosquito identification, biology and control. The excellent line drawings, simplified keys, lucid descriptions of species and the concise information on habits included in the book did much to lay the firm foundation on which our knowledge of mosquito control in this country now rests.

Another of Professor Matheson's textbooks, "Medical Entomology," published in 1932, is recognized as authoritative, well-balanced and one of the best treatises of its kind.

Besides his scientific writings, Professor Matheson contributed to mosquito control in many ways. He served as consultant on malaria control to the Tennessee Valley Authority during the first decade of that agency's existence. His sound advice on the mosquito aspects of the program was one of the important factors in TVA's development of a highly effective malaria control (and subsequent eradication) program which was to become world famous as a pattern for work of this kind. During World War II, he served as consultant on malaria control and later on malaria eradication to the U. S. Public Health Service. Students trained under him have played major roles in the control of arthropod-borne diseases both in this country and in many other parts of the world, particularly through their participation in the activities of the Armed Forces, U. S. Public Health Service, World Health Organization, and the International Cooperation Administration.

In addition to the American Mosquito Control Association, Professor Matheson's memberships included Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Alpha, Entomological Society of America, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Washington Academy of Sciences, Academy of National Sciences of Chile, and American Society of Parasitologists. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and in 1949 was named to the Philadelphia Academy of Science.

Professor Matheson was highly respected as a friend and as an inspiring teacher. He took a keen personal interest in his graduate students and those of us who received through him our first introduction to vital participation in biological science recall with gratitude his ability to transmit sound scientific attitudes. His home was often the scene of social gatherings at

which he and Mrs. Matheson graciously entertained his students and their wives. One remembers with pleasure the freedom and informality of those gatherings. Robert Matheson will long hold a place of high

esteem and affection in the hearts of his students, co-workers and friends.

HERBERT S. HURLBUT
ARCHIE D. HESS
GEORGE H. BRADLEY

V. S. MINNICH

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following Sam Minnich's death late last May, his daughter kindly supplied Mr. Creadon with clippings of news items about her father, taken from local papers. We could think of no more fitting tribute to him than to reprint here an excerpt from these accounts. They indicate the high esteem in which Sam was held, not only by his professional colleagues in AMCA, but also by his friends, neighbors and constituents.

From the Ormond Beach *Tribune*:

MOSQUITO CONTROL BOSS, SAM MINNICH DIES AT 62.

Mr. Minnich, 62, died of a heart attack Sunday on the Riviera County Club golf course. A native of Baraboo, Wisc., Mr. Minnich came to the Halifax Area from Chicago in 1925 and later became a retail merchant. He had worked for American Bridge, where he picked up a great deal of engineering knowledge.

When the East Volusia Anti-Mosquito Control District was formed in 1938, he started a career which won him international fame. He was put in charge of the mosquito control work in the Halifax Area.

When the district was reorganized to meet expanding needs in 1954, he became its executive director.

Mr. Minnich combined his engineering knowledge with biological advice from U. S. Public Health Service and Department of Agriculture entomologists and State scientists to develop a program of mosquito control which brought him and the area international fame.

He was the first to mount a dragline on a small barge and use it for ditching swamps.

An ardent fisherman and hunter, Mr. Minnich was careful with his use of the new chemical bug killers to make sure that he did not exterminate the fish, wildlife and friendly insect populations as well as mosquitoes.

He protected the fish which eat mosquito larvae and the birds which eat adult mosquitoes. He regarded them as allies in his work of killing mosquitoes.

As an internationally known expert in his field, he authored many technical papers on mosquito control methods and experiments and conducted numerous demonstrations for visiting delegations and experts from as far away as Indonesia and many other nations.

Mr. Minnich served in the Infantry in World War I, was chairman of the Board of Deacons of Westminster Presbyterian Church at the time of his death and was a member of the American Mosquito Control Assn. (regional director of the Southeastern Division in 1956-57-58); The Elks Club (honorary life member and past exalted ruler); the Quarterback Club, the Rotary Club and the Ellinor Village Country Club.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Helen Minnich; two daughters, Miss Phyllis Ann Minnich of South Daytona and Mary Kathryn (Mrs. George) Sutter of Jacksonville; and a son, Frederick Samuel Minnich.