the

W. G. Johnson

go farther and ascertain their origin and demonstrate the possibility of rearing parasites in native innoxious weevils and practically compelling them to leave the original host and attack this destructive pest.

The present indications are that great advances will be made in the near future. Most of this progress will result from the application or extension of previously recognized truths, rather than from the exploitation of entirely new methods. That there is great need of close investigations of the ecology of injurious species is evidenced by recent advances made possible thereby. We are strongly of the opinion that investigations of entire groups are to occupy a prominent place in the future, because this is one of the best ways of ascertaining every fact which may be of service in controlling an injurious pest. The application of methods found of value in other sciences will doubtless take a prominent place in the economic entomology of the near future. We much prefer to dwell in the New Testament atmosphere with its promises of the disclosure of truth to all, rather than to exist under Old Testament conditions, with its revelations to the few. We are of the opinion that the discoveries of truth are limited only by the opportunity and the visual (mental as well as optical) powers of the observer. We admire Moses, and while leaders are valuable, is it not true that our working entomologists constitute a small army of leaders, all contributing to the attainment of a common goal—the pushing back of the borders of the unknown.

Obituary

WILLIS GRANT JOHNSON

Prof. Willis G. Johnson, associate editor of the *American Agriculturist*, member of the board of control of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, and until the last few years prominent in entomological investigations, died at his home in New York City, March 11, 1908. He was stricken with slow spinal meningitis and passed away while in the prime of life.

Professor Johnson was born July 4, 1866, at New Albany, Ohio, and received his preparatory education in the Ohio State University from 1884–1887. He was graduated from Cornell University in 1892, with the degree of A. B., receiving A. M. in 1894. He was a post-graduate student in science and instructor at the Leland Stanford, Jr., University from 1892 to 1894. Then he was appointed instructor in the University of Illinois, and was engaged in special agricultural in-

vestigations, preparing at this time his extensive account¹ of the Mediterranean Flour Moth. He was appointed state entomologist of Maryland in 1896, organizing the state horticultural department, of which he became chief. He was also at this time professor of invertebrate zoölogy and entomology in the Maryland Agricultural College, and entomologist to the Agricultural Experiment Station. He organized the State Horticultural Society and at the time he severed his connection with the state was elected a life member, a unique honor. His best work in economic entomology was done in Maryland. He took a leading part in the enactment and enforcement of the law against San José scale, and was the author of several important publications on this pest. Continuing his work upon the Mediterranean flour moth and upon the San José scale, he developed the possibilities of fumigating with hydrocyanic acid gas, particularly in its relation to the control of grain pests in mills. His book entitled "Fumigation Methods," 1902, was the outcome of this work. He continued to write articles on economic entomology for several years after his connection with the *American Agriculturist*, and was also author of several works on other than entomological subjects. He resigned his position as state entomologist of Maryland in 1900 and became associate editor of the *American Agriculturist*, a position which he held to the time of his death. Professor Johnson was an exceedingly active man, being a member of a number of scientific associations, such as the American Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations, Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science, American Pomological Society and the Association of Economic Entomologists. He was appointed in July, 1907, a member of the board of control of the New York State Experiment Station, and had been for several years a director of the American Institute of New York City. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. His mother and several brothers reside at Columbus, Ohio. Interment was at Lake View, Ithaca, N. Y.

The multifarious duties of an editorship prevented his giving much attention to entomology in recent years, though he maintained to the last a keen interest in this branch of work. In the death of Professor Johnson, economic entomology has lost an enthusiastic, aggressive champion, and the sad news has caused profound sorrow among entomologists throughout the country.

E. P. F.
A. F. B.

¹1896, 19th report of the State Entomologist of Illinois, Appendix, p. 1-66.

Felt, Ephraim Porter and Burgess, A. F. 1908. "Willis Grant Johnson [Obituary]." *Journal of economic entomology* 1(2), 163–164.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/1.2.163>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/37189>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/1.2.163>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/325849>

Holding Institution

New York Botanical Garden, LuEsther T. Mertz Library

Sponsored by

The LuEsther T Mertz Library, the New York Botanical Garden

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.