

JAMES M. VAN HOOK

WASHINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA.

December 19, 1870.

PENTWATER, MICHIGAN.

June 20, 1935.

Professor James M. Van Hook was born in Washington County, Indiana, on December 19, 1870, and died at Pentwater, Michigan, June 20, 1935. He married the former Elizabeth Karsell in 1901. Survivors include the widow, a son, James M. Van Hook, Jr., Grand Rapids, Michigan, a daughter, Mrs. Woodrow Adams, Bloomington, a brother, and a sister.

Professor Van Hook attended the public schools and graduated from the Borden Institute, of Borden, Indiana, in 1894. He attended Indiana University, receiving the A. B. degree in 1899 and the A. M. degree in 1900. He then attended Cornell University as a graduate student and assistant in botany for a period of one year. From 1902 to 1904 he was assistant in plant pathology in the extension department, Cornell University. During his graduate work at Cornell he studied under Professor G. F. Atkinson. From 1904 until 1907 he was assistant botanist, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, with principal work in plant pathology, and was author of a number of station bulletins dealing with plant diseases.

During his graduate work at Cornell and later at the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, much of his research work was devoted to the diseases of ginseng. His findings were an important contribution to our knowledge of the diseases of ginseng and their control, and his work still stands as significant in its field.

In 1907 Professor Van Hook returned to Indiana University as Assistant Professor of Botany. He was promoted through the various ranks, receiving the title of Professor in 1925. At the time of his death he had thus completed almost three decades of service in Indiana University.

During this period of service there were many students to teach, and a large part of this load fell to him. His teaching was characterized by an enthusiasm for his work and an ability to impart this enthusiasm to the interested student. He was acquainted with related fields as well as his specific subject and was able to present the facts and relationships clearly and concisely. He unselfishly shared his time and energy, in and out of the classroom and laboratory, in personal sympathy and instruc-



JAMES M. VAN HOOK

tion. This seemed to him more important than fine-drawn definitions and excessive theory in teaching. I am not aware that Professor Van Hook ever took a formal course in education, but I am certain he possessed the qualities of a highly successful teacher. His broad experiences and thorough training in mycology and pathology were brought to play in his teaching, and that his ability was recognized and appreciated was evidenced in the number of graduate students working under him for advanced degrees.

During his twenty-eight years of teaching at Indiana University his research was for the most part in mycology with an occasional problem in plant pathology. His special study was with the Fungi Imperfecti. Unfortunately much of his work on this group remains unpublished.

In his work Professor Van Hook was opposed to the making of new species but believed, where possible, a greater service could be rendered botanical science by a careful study of material collected in quantity and in various stages of development, and appending corrections and additions to already given meager descriptions. His extreme conservatism in naming new species is evidenced in the amount of unpublished work on new species of imperfect fungi. His work on parasitic fungi was greatly enhanced by his familiarity with the taxonomy of the native host plants; he also was a specialist on ornamental plants.

By natural inclination Professor Van Hook was of a quiet and retiring disposition. I believe few realize the extent and variety and thoroughness of his attainments. As a foundation he was well schooled in the classical languages and literatures and in music. He was a skilled craftsman. He brought these accomplishments to his service as scientist; and through all he was a gentleman and a man of character.

His friendships were deep and lasting. Those who knew him recognized and admired his integrity, sincerity, kindness, and loyalty and were impressed with his knowledge, skill, and ability in the field of botanical science which he loved.

Professor Van Hook's interest in every thing life presents, made him a valuable member of his home and university community,—made him an enthusiastic cooperator in all efforts to make life more beautiful in every way and more enduringly satisfying.

Professor Van Hook was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the Indiana Academy of Science, a charter member of the American Phytopathological Society and of the Mycological Society of America, and a member of the Crop Protection Institute, the Botanical Society of America, Phi Beta Kappa, and Sigma Xi.

Bibliography

1900. Notes on the division of the cell and nucleus in liverworts. *Bot. Gaz.* **30**:394-399.
1902. Pink rot, an attendant of apple scab. (Craig and Van Hook.) *Cornell Expt. Sta. Bull.* **207**:157-172.
1904. Diseases of ginseng. *Cornell Expt. Sta. Bull.* **219**:163-186.
1906. *Ascoctya Pisi*, a disease of seed peas. *Ohio Nat.* **6**:507-512.
1904. Brown rot, its effect on fruit, twigs, leaves and blossoms. *Ann. Rept. Ohio State Hort. Soc.* **38**:141-147.

1906. A cause of freak peas. *Torrey* 6:67-69.
1906. Blighting of garden and field peas. *Ohio Agr. Expt. Sta. Bull.* 173:231-250.
1906. A disease of ginseng due to *Phytophthora*. *Special Crops* 5:94.
1907. Dying of bearing grape vines. (Shelby and Van Hook.) *Ohio Agr. Expt. Sta. Circ.* 64.
1907. Celery root rot. *Ohio Agr. Expt. Sta. Circ.* 72.
1911. *Indiana Fungi*. I. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 20:205-212.
1912. *Indiana Fungi*. II. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 21:347-354.
1913. *Indiana Fungi*. III. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 22:99-101.
1916. *Indiana Fungi*. IV. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 25:141-148.
1921. The perithecium of *Ciccinobolis*. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 30:215-216.
1921. A tricotyledonous bean. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 30:217.
1921. *Indiana Fungi*. V. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 30:209-214.
1922. *Indiana Fungi*. VI. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 31:143-148.
1924. *Indiana Fungi*. VII. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 33:233-238.
1925. *Indiana Fungi*. VIII. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 34:317-320.
1926. *Indiana Fungi*. IX. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 35:333-336.
1928. *Indiana Fungi*. X. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 37:365-371.
1929. *Indiana Fungi*. XI. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 38:127-131.
1929. Some new species of *Fungi*. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 38:131-132.
1930. *Indiana Fungi*. XII. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 39:75-83.
1935. Anthracnose of *Betula nigra*. (Van Hook and Busted.) *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 44:81.
1935. *Indiana Fungi*. XIII. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.* 44:55-64.

ROBERT C. BUSTEED.