

Goldan O. Hall

June 11, 1897 — June 15, 1981

Professor Hall was born in Parkersburg, West Virginia. After serving in the U.S. Army as a lieutenant from 1917 to 1919, he graduated from the University of West Virginia in 1921 with the degree Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. For about a year afterward he held an appointment as instructor in poultry husbandry at that university until he came to Cornell in 1922 for post-graduate study.

Here, his qualifications and ability were soon recognized. He was appointed as instructor in 1923 and assigned to teach a course in poultry breeding and judging, at the same time pursuing his post-graduate studies. A Master of Science in Agriculture degree was followed by a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1926. By that time he had established a reputation as an excellent teacher and was appointed an assistant professor. Thereafter he climbed the academic ladder by the usual rungs and was appointed to a full professorship in 1944.

Professor Hall was affectionately known in his department simply as "G.O." Because of his ability as a teacher, other courses were pressed upon him, including those in judging, marketing, and farm poultry. G.O. loved to work with students. No adviser ever took the responsibilities of that role with a more gladsome heart.

One of his specialties was the coaching of poultry-judging teams. At that time, teams of student judges from several eastern agricultural colleges competed annually at some central place. The fine art of estimating from external characteristics which hens had laid the most eggs had been highly developed. In some classes, the birds were also judged for perfection in conformation, plumage, and other standards of their breed. During G.O.'s years of training the Cornell teams, they competed in twenty-five contests, placing first in fourteen of them and second in six. In two of these contests, members of the Cornell team ranked first, second, and third in individual scoring.

In 1942 G.O. was awarded the prize for excellence in teaching and extension by the Poultry Science Association. He was faculty adviser to the Poultry Club from 1939 until his retirement. He also served on four faculty committees of the College of Agriculture. He was elected an honorary member of Ho-Nun-De-Kah, the honor society of the College of Agriculture. In West Virginia he had helped in the development of camps for members of 4-H clubs, an interest which he maintained after he came to New York.

Professor Hall's interests in research were chiefly in breeding and marketing. These were combined when it was found that variations in the quality (firmness) of albumen in eggs were partly genetic in origin. With his graduate

students and others in the department, he published some forty scientific articles on variations in egg production and in egg quality. In his high-fecundity strain of White Leghorns, one hen established what is probably still a world's record by laying (in trapnests) 1,515 eggs in eight years.

G.O. was coauthor of two books: *Judging Poultry for Production* (1930) and *Poultry Management* (1952). He was a member of the American Association for Advancement of Science, Poultry Science Association, World's Poultry Science Association, and Sigma Xi. At Cornell he belonged to Scabbard and Blade, Lambda Gamma Delta, and Kappa Sigma.

Professor Hall was predeceased two years earlier by his wife, Melissa. Old-timers will recall that both were loved for their unfailing assistance with departmental parties and picnics.

G.O. retired in 1955 and moved to Orlando, Florida. He is survived by two daughters: Nancy (Mrs. D. Rosenberg) of Washington, D.C., Berta (Mrs. F. M. Chupp) of Binghamton, New York; a son, James H. Hall of Bay City, Michigan; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Randall K. Cole, Edward A. Schano, Frederick B. Hutt