

# Harry Morton Fitzpatrick

*June 27, 1886 — December 8, 1949*

Harry Morton Fitzpatrick was born in Greenwood, Indiana, on June 27, 1886. He attended high school in Crawfordsville, Indiana, where he became acquainted with the late Professor H. H. Whetzel, then a student at Wabash College, who stimulated his interest in mycology. He entered Wabash College in 1905 and there came under the influence of Professor Mason B. Thomas, a great teacher of botany, who developed his early interest in that science. Encouraged by Professor Whetzel and aided by Professor Thomas, he came to Cornell in 1908 as an assistant in the Department of Botany and received the A. B. degree in 1909. He then entered the Graduate School at Cornell and, continuing as an Assistant and later as an Instructor in Plant Pathology, studied mycology under Professor George F. Atkinson. He was awarded the Ph. D. degree in 1913 and was immediately appointed Assistant Professor in the recently organized Department of Plant Pathology, and began the work of teaching mycology to which he devoted the remainder of his life. He was raised to a full Professorship in 1922.

He was highly regarded as a mycologist and in recognition of this fact held several responsible positions. He was Editor of the Mycological Section of Botanical Abstracts for many years, Associate Editor of *Mycologia*, Executive Secretary of the Mycological Section of the Fourth International Botanical Congress and a member of the Sectional Committee on Fungi and Fungous Diseases of the Third International Congress of Microbiology. While on leave of absence from the University, he served as Instructor in the Summer School of the University of Michigan and as Visiting Lecturer at Harvard University. Professor Fitzpatrick took an active part in the establishment of the Mycological Society of America and served that organization with distinction. He was the first Secretary, later President, and finally served as Historian until his death.

His interest in research was primarily in the field of taxonomic mycology and he was a recognized authority on certain groups of the Ascomycetes. He made numerous contributions to scientific journals and his book on the Lower Fungi is a standard text and reference work on the Phycomycetes. He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Botanical Society of America, the American Phytopathological Society, the Mycological Society of America, the British Mycological Society, Sigma Xi and Phi Kappa Phi.

Professor Fitzpatrick will be best remembered as a teacher of mycology. His course for advanced students in that subject will long be held in memory by Cornell graduates in Plant Pathology. His meticulously prepared lecture notes, issued in mimeographed form, were models of completeness and accuracy. It is greatly to be regretted

that, save for the part on the Phycomycetes, he could not be persuaded to record this valuable work in a more permanent form. He taught mycology in the tradition of the Atkinson school and his former students, of whom he was justly proud, have carried these teachings to many parts of the world.

In spite of the severe and impersonal discipline of his subject, he recognized students as human beings and had always a friendly interest in them and their affairs. To many generations of Cornell students he was known affectionately as "Prof. Fitz," teacher and friend.

*Charles Chupp, W. C. Muenscher, D. S. Welch*