

Mark Vernon Slingerland

Assistant Professor of Economic Entomology

— *March 11, 1909*

On Wednesday, March 11, 1909, death removed from among us our respected friend and valued colleague, Mark Vernon Slingerland. His death is a serious loss to the world of natural science in which he was a conscientious and honored student, as well as to the Faculty of this University where his opinion and voice were respected, and a deep source of grief to a wide circle of friends in University and town.

He came to this community as a student in 1888, was graduated in 1892 and entered the instructing staff of the University in the same year. His progress thereafter was rapid, but also substantial. As a student, his career was marked by earnestness, courage and industry. As a teacher, he was direct and forceful. As an investigator, he was conscientious, unbiased, persevering and accurate. In his special field of economic entomology, his authority and leadership received unquestioned recognition. As a student of the life history and means of controlling insects which prey upon domestic animals and cultivated plants, his investigations embraced an exceptionably wide range. While the numerous monographs he prepared have been of incalculable benefit to those engaged in the field of plant and animal production, they remain also as enduring monuments to a life which, though lamentably short, yet overflowed with a special type of beneficent usefulness. His opinion, advice and judgment were valued alike by student and colleague. Those who knew him as a friend were privileged. They appreciated him as a man of character wedded to truth, unswerving in conviction, and consistent in maintaining his ideals. Though diffident in expressing opinions, his mind was of the eminently practical kind, which, discarding unimportant details, concentrates on the immediately essential. His memory is cherished as a man whose life, though short, stands as a notable example of one who gave his years unselfishly and devotedly to the discovery of useful truths in the realm of natural history in their relation to the economy of plant and animal life. Measured by years, his life was short ; measured by achievement he lived long. As a scientist we honor his memory; as a man and a colleague, we mourn his loss.

J. H. Comstock, John Craig, W. W. Rowlee

Source: Records, p. 451, April 16, 1909.