

Kenneth B. McEntee

March 30, 1921 — January 26, 2005

Professor Emeritus Ken McEntee grew up on a dairy farm in Oakfield, western New York. He received his DVM degree from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University in 1944 and spent a year in private veterinary practice in Newport, Vermont before joining the Army Veterinary Corps, serving first on Long Island and then in the Philippines. After two years of active duty, Dr. McEntee continued to serve in the Army Reserves, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1947, Dr. McEntee was invited to return to Cornell by Professor Peter Olafson to work on the pathogenesis of X-disease in cattle (hyperkeratosis) later shown to be caused by chlorinated naphthalenes. He credited Professor Olafson as being fundamental in his development as a pathologist. Dr. McEntee achieved international distinction as the founder of the subspecialty of veterinary reproductive pathology, being the first veterinary pathologist to devote his career to the study of diseases of the reproductive system. In doing so, he “brought order to a chaotic welter of breeding diseases known only by their clinical signs.” He earned a reputation for painstaking clinical examination coupled with detailed gross and microscopic examination, meticulous record keeping and unceasing deliberation. In collaboration with scientists of other disciplines, he undertook many experimental studies to elucidate the etiology of the naturally occurring diseases he observed. Starting with diseases of cattle because of their economic importance and his familiarity with them, Dr. McEntee’s comparative studies led him to comprehensive knowledge of the reproductive diseases of all the other domestic species. His work resulted in a collection of well-catalogued material from over 20,000 cases, which in 1979 he transformed into the International Registry of Reproductive Pathology, a resource that continues to be of great value to investigators. Dr. McEntee’s combination of diagnostic acumen and expertise in pathology made him an effective teacher of veterinary students, graduate students and practicing veterinarians. His understated style and quiet wit were hallmarks of his lectures. Students remember him as a consummate gentleman. “He had wisdom to share and he did so freely, but only when asked,” said one.

Dr. McEntee was the Chair of the Department of Large Animal Medicine, Obstetrics and Surgery and served as Associate Dean for Clinical Studies. At various times, he served as Visiting Professor in Australia, Sweden, Brazil and Taiwan. He won the Borden Award from the American Veterinary Medical Association for research on diseases of dairy cattle in 1971, and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Royal Veterinary College in

Stockholm, Sweden in 1975. Active in many professional associations and committees, he served as President of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in 1966-67.

Dr. McEntee retired from Cornell as Emeritus Professor in 1980. Following retirement, he spent seven years at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois, continuing his work on the International Registry of Reproductive Pathology. There he completed the major text and reference work, *Reproductive Pathology of Domestic Mammals* (Academic Press, 1990), which remains the definitive work of this discipline.

On August 6, 1952, Ken married Janet Fraser, the daughter of Professor Allan C. Fraser. They spent many summers at their cottage on the western shore of Cayuga Lake and enjoyed hosting friends on their houseboat. Ken was a Commander of the Coast Guard Power Squadron based in Ithaca. Ken was also an avid coin and stamp collector and he and Janet enjoyed foreign travel. Their son, Michael, earned the DVM degree at Cornell in 1980 and is currently Professor of Veterinary Pathology at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee. Their daughter, Margaret, received the DVM degree from Cornell in 1986, and is currently an Associate Professor of Oncology in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell. Janet McEntee resides in Ithaca.

Howard E. Evans, Robert O. Gilbert, Bud C. Tennant, Donald H. Schlafer