Charles D. Chupp

June 2, 1886 — November 9, 1967

After fifty-five years of association with Cornell University as a graduate student, teacher, extension pathologist and Professor Emeritus, Dr. Charles Chupp died following a chronic illness on November 9, 1967, in Ithaca, New York. He had retired from active service in the Department of Plant Pathology on June 30, 1954.

Dr. Chupp was born June 2, 1886, in Millersburgh, Indiana, son of Levi and Rebecca Chupp. Following graduation from Wabash College in 1912 with a B.S. in botany he entered the Graduate School at Cornell University that fall. While studying, he served as assistant and later as instructor in plant pathology. He was granted the Ph.D. from Cornell in 1916. For the year following, he was Acting Professor of Botany at Wabash College. In 1918 he returned to Cornell as Assistant Extension Professor in Plant Pathology handling extension duties mostly dealing with vegetables. He was appointed an Assistant Professor in 1919 and Professor in 1927. He continued to serve in vegetable extension pathology work until his retirement June 30, 1954.

Known as the premier diagnostician of plant disease problems, Dr. Chupp was internationally recognized for his studies on vegetable diseases and his knowledge of all plant production problems. He traveled throughout New York State widely in the days of the Model T Ford, railroads, and mud roads and was known and respected by three generations of vegetable growers throughout the state and by the graduates in plant pathology and vegetable Crops at Cornell. Dr. Chupp had outstanding abilities as a teacher. He was at his best with small informal groups. He was equally adept with professional colleagues, students, county extension staff, and farmers. With each group he had contagious enthusiasm for his subjects, and he used terminology and techniques appropriate for the particular audience.

His recommendations to farmers resulted in the adoption of sound practices that have been of inestimable value to vegetable growers by increasing their yields and reducing disease losses. He was one of the first to recognize the importance of the use of disease-free seed and of protecting the plants during their early period of growth as well as the use of resistant varieties. Tomato plant growers followed his methods of seedling production after the industry was seriously threatened by disease. He was also active in planning and initiating vegetable seed certification and was responsible for exacting field inspections during its early stages. As a measure of appreciation of his work, the New York State Vegetable Growers Association, at its annual meeting in 1951, honored him with a citation and presented him with a purse.
At a ceremony held in Washington, May 18, 1954, the United States Department of Agriculture bestowed on Professor Chupp its Superior Service Award in recognition of the value of his services to agriculture in the United States.

Professor Chupp became interested, as a hobby, in the classification and relationship of the fungi belonging to the genus Cercospora on observing many diseases of vegetables and other plants incited by species of this genus. He spent some thirty years of his spare time in studying this group from specimens in the field and dried specimens in herbaria that he visited in this country and in Europe. The results of his studies were published privately in 1954 in his monograph on the fungus genus Cercospera. It was a contribution of great value to research in the identification and relationships of this group of fungi, an aid alike to plant pathologists, mycologists, and other botanists throughout the world.

In addition to his numerous articles and bulletins on vegetable diseases, his *Manual of Vegetable Garden Diseases* was published by Macmillan and Company in 1925, and *Vegetable Diseases and Their Control*, written with Dr. A. F. Sherf, was published by Ronald Press in 1960. This latter publication has become a standard reference work in the libraries of extension specialists, county agents, and college teachers throughout this country and abroad.

Dr. Chupp was a life member of the American Phytopathological Society serving as councillor in 1937 and 1938, vice president in 1939, and president in 1940. He was designated Fellow by the Society in 1965. He was also a member of the American Mycological Society, The American Association for the Advancement of Science, Epsilon Sigma Phi, and Sigma Xi. In 1964 he was presented the Award of Merit by the Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society. He was a member of the Forest Home Chapel and a fifty-year member of the Edinburg Lodge, F. & A. Masons, Edinburg, Indiana.

He is survived by his wife, the former Nora Mae Scrugham, sons Karl, Howard, Frank and John, thirteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

With his passing, Cornell has lost a spirited, loyal supporter of its traditions and a man who added much to its prestige.

*William F. Mai, Robert D. Sweet, Arden F. Sherf*