

Clive Maine McCay

March 21, 1898 — June 8, 1967

Professor Emeritus, Clive Maine McCay died on June 8, 1967, at his home in Englewood, Florida. He had retired in 1962 because of ill health. Dr. McCay joined the staff of the Department of Animal Husbandry at Cornell University in 1927 after a varied experience at the Universities of Illinois, Iowa State, California, Texas A. and M., and Yale. His training, at first in chemistry and then in biochemistry fitted him well for the pioneering research in nutrition that became his lifework. Perhaps his greatest scientific contribution in this field was the demonstration that slow growth is related to greater longevity, a result that was at variance with accepted belief and common sense. He also showed that regular exercise extended the lifespan, whereas animals that became excessively fat died younger.

McCay was not content to be purely a laboratory scientist, but he was always ready to carry his work into the practical field. He helped materially in improving the diets of institutional inmates in New York State and, during World War II, served as a commander in the United States Navy with a large measure of responsibility for the nutritional well-being of the servicemen. This work took him far afield as he studied the dietary habits of the personnel on aircraft carriers and submarines. He was always ready to campaign for better nutrition of those least likely to have it, and especially for the senior citizens among us. He was in great demand as a lecturer on these topics. In particular, he devised a formula for an improved type of bread that included the latest that scientific information could suggest.

He served terms as president of the American Institute of Nutrition and of the American Gerontological Society and was an honorary member of the Swiss Society of Nutrition. For his book, *Nutrition of the Dog*, he received the first National Dog Week award and medal. In 1961, at the international convention on nutrition, vital substances and diseases of civilization he was presented with a gold medal for his researches in nutrition and his work to improve the status of human nutrition.

Dr. McCay had great ability in his chosen field of teaching and research. As a teacher he was stimulating both for the student and the staff member. He was very widely read and his depth of knowledge as well as his inclination to take a very broad view of a particular problem was most impressive. He did not suffer fools gladly and many of his students had occasion to regret lapses of performance or evidence of shoddy thinking. At the same time, he was

very competent in drawing out the best in others and in stimulating discussion. There was never a dull moment when he was around.

Dr. and Mrs. McCay were most generous in showing hospitality to graduate students and to visitors to our campus, especially to those from other lands. Their picnics and the gatherings at their home will long be remembered gratefully by men and women now scattered throughout the world.

S. A. Asdell, J. I. Miller, J. K. Loosli