

Frederick Zeller Hartzell

December 11, 1879 — June 13, 1958

Following several years of steadily declining health, Frederick Zeller Hartzell, Emeritus Professor of Entomology, died on June 13, 1958, at Geneva, New York, in his seventy-eighth year. He had been a member of the staff of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station since 1909. He retired in 1948.

Professor Hartzell was born on a farm near Easton, Pennsylvania, December 11, 1879. He received a classical education at Lafayette College where, in 1905, he received the AB degree. During his junior year at Lafayette he became afflicted with tuberculosis. While his case was mild, and responded successfully to treatment, he decided that with a susceptibility of this nature it would be best to prepare for a career in a field that would keep him outdoors as much as possible. Also he saw in this plan an opportunity to pursue his then newly awakened interest in science.

Consistent with these earlier decisions, he accepted, in 1906, a position as Field Assistant in the Zoology Division of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. His first assignment was scouting for the San Jose scale. This much-feared pest of the tree fruits had only recently been introduced to Pennsylvania. Hartzell's mission was to seek out, inspect, and record the scale-status of host trees wherever they might occur in the western half of the state. This quest took him into many remote and little traveled districts. Much of the time he relied on his own two legs to get from one farm to the next, although, on some expeditions, he made use of a bicycle.

In 1907, he was assigned to a federal-state field research station at North East, Pennsylvania. Here he came under the influence of the federal entomologist A. G. Hammar who convinced him he needed more formal training in Entomology if he was to carry out his plan of a career in this field. This led him to Cornell University where, in 1909, he was granted the MA degree. That same year he was appointed to the staff of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station as Assistant Entomologist and was assigned to the Station's Vineyard Laboratory at Fredonia. This remained his headquarters until 1928 when he moved to Geneva. Professor Hartzell attained his full professorship in 1938. For several months in 1948, following the death of Doctor Hugh Glasgow, he also served as acting head of the Station's Department of Entomology. He retired December 31, 1948.

Professor Hartzell was well and favorably known in various agricultural circles of the State. Best known to fruit growers, he was held in especially high esteem by the grape growers of Chatauqua and Erie counties where, during the first two decades of his career, he worked so diligently and effectively in their interest. Much of our present

knowledge of the biology, ecology, and control of the many pests of grape, pear, apple, and cherry is based on Professor Hartzell's research. He also was active in the introduction and development of certain insecticides, notably the dinitro compounds and the tar oils. In the area of contributions to his profession, Professor Hartzell will possibly be remembered best for the pioneering role he played in the application of statistical and biometrical principles to entomological field experimentation. In all, he authored some 95 technical or semi-technical papers.

In addition to Entomology, Professor Hartzell was well informed in the fields of Ecology, Ornithology, Biometry, Geology, Astronomy, Botany, Meteorology, and in several branches of Mathematics. It can be said he attained professional competence in the first four fields. However, of all titles the one that perhaps fit him best was that of Naturalist. Professor Hartzell was a member of the following scientific societies: the American Association for the Advancement of Science (fellow), Entomological Society of America, American Association of Economic Entomologists, American Chemical Society, Ecological Society of America, and American Statistical Association.

Professor Hartzell was highly respected by his colleagues and associates for the breadth and depth of his knowledge. In venturing into fields outside their own specialization, many found it quicker and easier to "ask Hartzell" for the information sought than to dig it out themselves. His knowledge was truly encyclopedic. An inveterate reader, his curiosity knew no bounds. Professor Hartzell was at his best in the role of instructor and counselor. Many can look back with gratitude to the help they received as graduate students or as new staff members from this patient, kindly man. His aid was constantly being sought in such diverse fields as writing, instrumentation, the layout and preparation of graphs, design of field experiment, the statistical analyses of data, and others.

Modest and unpretentious, Professor Hartzell was invariably courteous and thoughtful of others. There was no malice in the man. It was rare indeed to hear him speak unfavorably of anyone—of anyone that is, except himself. His intimates derived much amusement from this habit of self-criticism. Professor Hartzell allowed himself few indulgences. One of these was the acquisition of books; his personal library, composed largely of treatises on scientific subjects, exceeded a thousand volumes. He also received pleasure from the possession of such equipment as cameras and field glasses of which he owned a half dozen of each item. These he put to good use in the frequent excursions he made afield to view birds and to photograph various objects and scenes of interest.

Professor Hartzell always exhibited pleasure and enthusiasm for his work and interests. One gained the impression he found living in this world a great and exciting adventure; his interest in learning more and still more about it all never flagged.

Professor Hartzell married Edith M. Rupp in 1910. She died in 1933. He is survived by a brother, Dr. Albert Hartzell of Yonkers, New York; by a sister, Mrs. Martha W. Clagett, a half-brother, Wilson E. Hartzell, and a half-sister, Mrs. Verna Krissinger, all of Lebanon, Pennsylvania; and by several nieces and nephews.

In Professor Hartzell's passing the world has lost a true scholar and gentleman.

P. J. Chapman, E. F. Taschenberg, C. E. Palm