

Forest Milo Blodgett

July 15, 1885 — June 11, 1951

The sudden death of Forest Milo Blodgett following a cerebral hemorrhage brought to an untimely close a long career of service to Cornell University and to agriculture. Surviving are his wife, Elsa James Blodgett, three children, and three grandchildren.

Professor Blodgett was born and reared on a farm near Brocton, New York, the son of Silas and Clara Jane Blodgett. After receiving his preparatory education at Stockton High School and Fredonia Normal, he came to Cornell and graduated in 1910 with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. As an undergraduate, he studied under the late Professor H. H. Whetzel who induced him to undertake graduate work in the field of plant pathology. He spent the next four years in graduate study as a Hermann Frasch research fellow and received his doctorate in 1914.

During the year 1914-15, Professor Blodgett was Associate Botanist at the New York (Geneva) Agricultural Experiment Station but he returned to Cornell in 1915 to become an Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology. Subsequently, he was raised to the rank of Professor. He spent his sabbatic leave for the second term of the year 1923-24 at the University of Wisconsin.

Professor Blodgett was a member of Sigma Xi, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Phytopathological Society, and the Potato Association of America, serving the latter association as vice president in 1940 and president in 1941.

In the early years of his professional life, Professor Blodgett devoted his time to research on the control of hop mildew and apple diseases. He is better known for his extensive work and writings concerning virus diseases of the potato, the use of sprays and dusts for potato pest control, and the development of potato varieties resistant to scab and virus infection. He originated the tuber-index method of testing tubers for the presence of virus diseases. He was a student and ardent advocate of modern biometrics as a means of increasing the worth of field and laboratory experimentation. His strict obedience to biometrical practice, always a pattern for his research, earned for him a reputation for sound conservative judgment. Colleagues and graduate students frequently sought his advice on planning their experiments and in the statistical analysis of their data.

Quiet and unassuming, Professor Blodgett had no propensity for classroom or extension teaching. He preferred the field and the out-of-doors not only as a stage for his research but for the pursuit as well of his favorite hobbies,

skiing, hunting, and especially fishing. He leaves behind a rich heritage in his many students, well trained under his guidance in the field of plant pathology.

M. F. Barrus, W. H. Burkholder, W. A. Rawlins