

William Alonzo Stocking, Jr.

Professor of Dairy Husbandry

May 13, 1872 — February 3, 1926

The Trustees and Faculty deeply deplore the death of Professor William Alonzo Stocking, Jr., who died on February 3, 1926, after a long and painful illness. Born in Connecticut on May 13, 1872, he was graduated from the Agricultural College of his native state in 1895. Entering Cornell for further work, he was graduated B.S.A. with the class of 1898. After spending the next four years as Assistant Professor of Dairy Bacteriology at his Connecticut Alma Mater, he returned to Cornell to study for the advanced degree of M.S.A., which he received in 1904. Then began his useful and distinguished career of more than twenty years at Cornell as a teacher of dairy bacteriology, a subject which he developed from modest beginnings to a position of great importance. Becoming an instructor in 1904, he was advanced to an assistant professorship in 1906 and in 1909 was made a full professor and head of the Dairy Department. In a state in which the dairy industry has a large place, he was thus charged with great educational and administrative responsibility. He did his work with unvarying efficiency, patience, and tact. He took an active and significant part in the organizations of dairymen in the state and the nation, serving as President of the American Dairy Science Association from 1916 to 1918 and of the New York State Dairymen's Association from 1922 to 1924. In 1924 he represented the University and the United States Department of Agriculture at the International Dairy Exposition at Milan, and traveled in various European countries studying the problems of the dairyman.

As acting Dean of the College of Agriculture in 1913-14 he held the confidence and respect of the Faculty, the students, and the agricultural interests of the State.

He had the scholar's passion for learning, and in 1913 resigned the headship of his department in order to be relieved of administrative duties and devote himself exclusively to teaching and research.

A man of simple and refined tastes, he loved the open, and was never happier than when close to nature at his summer home in the Adirondack Mountains. Yet he was no recluse, and for his large humanity was honored and beloved by those with whom he came into close contact, in the classroom, in his Faculty relationships, in the church, and as a citizen. In all the walks of life which he trod, he gave of his best without stint; and his works do follow him. The pupils whom he taught and we, his colleagues, shall treasure the memory of his kindly and beneficent personality.

Source: Fac. Rec., p. 1452 Adopted by The Trustees and Faculty of Cornell University May, Nineteen Hundred And Twenty-Six