

# George James Hucker

*August 19, 1893 — May 18, 1988*

George Hucker was raised on a farm near Cascade, Iowa. He obtained his A.B. degree from Lenox College in 1915, his A.M. degree from Columbia University in 1916, his Ph.D. degree from Yale in 1924, and an honorary degree from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in 1964. Following overseas service during World War I as a lieutenant in the Sanitary Corps, he joined the staff of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in 1919 as an assistant in research. He retired from Cornell in 1963 as professor of bacteriology.

Dr. Hucker was a very productive researcher. His early studies dealt with the microbiology of cheese manufacture and sanitation in dairy plants. Later, his interests were extended to the microbiology of frozen vegetables and to the sanitation problems associated with these foods. His more basic research was concerned with the taxonomy of the different genera of *cocci* that are important in foods. He contributed to a number of editions of Bergey's *Manual of Determinative Bacteriology* and his publication with Carl Pederson on the genus *Leuconostoc* served as the definitive taxonomic reference for many years. His name remains well known to most bacteriologists due to his improvement, the Hucker modification, of the Gram stain. He authored over 200 papers during his 44 years at Cornell.

George Hucker was characterized by his colleagues as a mover and a shaker. In his profession, his unusual organizational and promotional talents were applied on local, national and international levels in the fields of bacteriology, dairy science and public health. Perhaps his greatest contribution was being one of a small group of scientists who founded the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT). Hucker served as the first secretary-treasurer of IFT and was elected its president in 1947. IFT is now the principal professional society for food scientists, with a membership exceeding 24,000.

Dr. Hucker was equally active in community affairs. He served on Geneva General Hospital's board of trustees for 15 years and on the board of directors of the Rochester Regional Council of Hospitals. He was president of the Geneva Historical Society for ten years and was largely responsible for the addition of a \$100,000 wing to the Society's museum. His many contributions were recognized by the naming of an exhibition room in his honor.

He also is a former president of the Geneva Community Chest, the Geneva Country Club, the Finger Lakes Torch Club, the Geneva University Club, and the Geneva Rotary Club. He served as district governor of Rotary International, and was honored by being appointed a Paul Harris Fellow.

Dr. Hucker's hobbies were photography and the collecting of early American and English silver. As a talented photographer, he made documentaries for the Ontario Day Care Center, the YMCA, the historical society, and Rotary's camp for crippled children.

Dr. Hucker is survived by his wife, Marjorie.

*Paul J. Chapman, Willard B. Robinson, Don F. Splittstoesser*