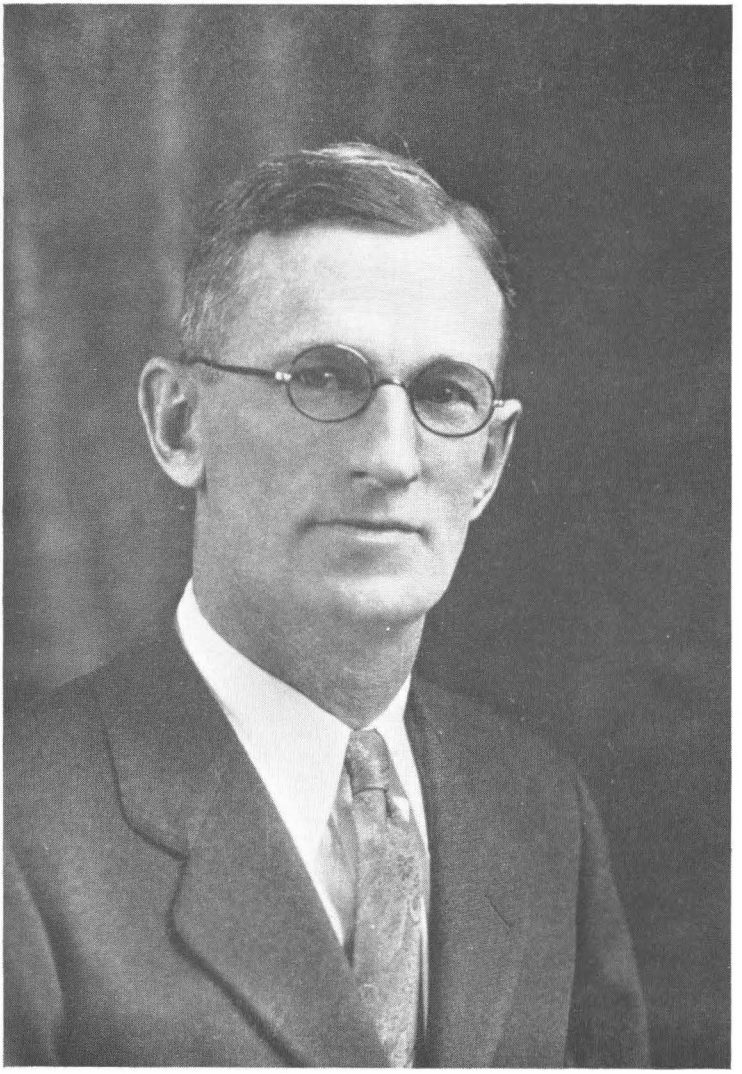

BERNARD WERNICK HAMMER

B. W. HAMMER

PANEGYRIC

By

His Former Students
at the Iowa State College

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TO

BERNARD WERNICK HAMMER

IN APPRECIATION OF HIS WORK IN TEACHING
AND RESEARCH WE DEDICATE THIS BOOK

PREFACE

In the spring of 1911 a conference was held on the campus of Iowa State College that proved to be of unusual significance to Iowa and particularly to Iowa's dairy industry. Prof. M. Mortensen, as head of the Department and Section of Dairy Industry, and the writer, as head of the Department and Section of Bacteriology, conferred long and carefully on the general problem of the future of teaching and research in the field of dairy bacteriology. A course of action was charted. It was decided that recommendations should be prepared looking toward securing for Iowa State the best trained, forward-looking young man that could be secured to develop our work in dairy bacteriology. The recommendation was approved by Dean C. F. Curtiss and by Pres. R. A. Pearson.

For our purpose it was highly desirable to secure the right man with the right training from the right school. At that time the list of institutions that could give adequate training was a short one. It did not take long to secure a list of available men who might prove satisfactory. Then came a trip to interview these men.

The man finally selected came from an institution, the University of Wisconsin, with a fine tradition of accomplishment in agricultural research, and eminence, particularly, in bacteriology and in dairying. Men such as Babcock, Russell, Hastings, Ravenel and Frost could not fail to leave their impress on their students. We followed their recommendations and invited B. W. Hammer to head our work at Iowa State College.

Dairy Industry probably exemplifies better than any other department at Iowa State College the motto of the institution, "Science with Practice." With due credit to the cordial backing and assistance of Professor Mortensen and other members of the staff, much of the success in this accomplishment is to be attributed to the point of view, training, ability and energy of Dr. Hammer. He has now served in his present position for 25 years. It is indeed fitting that his success as teacher and investigator should be celebrated by this acknowledgment from students and associates.

Formal tribute to Dr. Hammer's contributions to commercial, educational and research phases of dairying have been prepared by others for this volume. Yet it is appropriate that at least one comment be made here in an effort to diagnose the reasons for Dr. Hammer's success in his chosen field. Foremost has been his insistence upon research which is not superficial but which goes into fundamentals. No progress can be made in the solution of a problem until it has been broken down into its elements.

The kinds of organisms present, the exact chemical changes which they induce, the strict control of environment, the recognition of the complexity of the reactions involved, the stabilization of conditions so that one factor only will vary at a time, the recognition and separation of significant factors—these are among the techniques which have brought success to his research. In teaching we find an unusual ability to classify and organize material, to separate the important from the trivial and to present material in a straightforward manner and in as simple form as the nature of the complex material will permit.

In Dr. Hammer's relationships to industry there has been recognition that there are many varied and important problems to be solved and that the solution of these problems requires the marshalling of all the facts and techniques of all the sciences. In this attempt he has been remarkably successful. He speaks with authority alike to the buttermaker in the creamery and to the dairy bacteriologist in his national gatherings.

Iowa State College wishes to felicitate Dr. Hammer upon the completion of 25 years of service and to insist that what he has thus far accomplished may be but the merest fraction of what he will still be able to accomplish.

R. E. BUCHANAN
Dean of Graduate College, Professor and Head of Bacteriology, Iowa State College.

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