
B I O G R A P H Y

HENRY GILMAN

Iowa State College

BERNARD WERNICK HAMMER was born Oct. 7, 1886, at Hillsboro, Wis., the son of Robert and Emma (Armbruster) Hammer. After graduation from the Hillsboro High School in 1904 he entered the University of Wisconsin, graduating with the B. S. A. degree in 1908. In 1909 he married Edna Quammen of Madison, Wis. Their son, Robert Q., was graduated from Iowa State College and married an alumna of the school a year ago.

Subsequent to graduation, Dr. Hammer continued his studies at the University of Wisconsin under Dr. E. G. Hastings and was assistant in agricultural bacteriology in 1908-1909. Then he was bacteriologist, associated with Dr. M. P. Ravenel, at the Wisconsin State Hygienic Laboratory, at the University of Wisconsin, from 1909 to 1911, after which he joined the Department of Dairy Bacteriology at Iowa State College in 1911. Since 1916 he has been chief in dairy bacteriology, of the Agricultural Experiment Station, and professor of dairy bacteriology.

He managed to find time from a busy academic life to continue graduate study and research; and in December, 1920, he was awarded the degree doctor of philosophy from the University of Chicago.

The foregoing is a bare recital of his *vita* up to the time of writing. It is difficult to go on and supply any personal touches, for the writer is confident that Dr. Hammer has too much becoming reserve to have anyone speak or write of him in a biographical sense. In short, it is our studied opinion that the subject of this sketch is being imposed on!

The significant contributions of Dr. Hammer in the field of dairy bacteriology need no recital here. We can speak confidently of his catholicity of scholarly interests, of his great enthusiasms, of his sustained scientific curiosity and of his almost untiring energy which have made it

possible to accomplish so much in a short period without any sacrifice of meticulous work. No individual working alone could have managed the large volume of research results, not to mention the editorial work which comprised among other things contributions to Bergey's manual of determinative bacteriology and the writing of a successful text in dairy bacteriology. Most fortunately, Dr. Hammer is not only a researcher in his own right, but a highly successful director of research as evidenced by the numerous important academic and industrial positions held by students who had their training with him.

Through it all there have been the usual accessory academic commitments: First, general teaching, which must be a pleasure to him, otherwise it is difficult to see how he can teach so effectively and excellently; second, the inevitable committee and administrative duties, for which, like a true student of research, he may have something short of a deep affection, but which have been executed with the same care and thoroughness that stamps all of his undertakings.

There is, of course, the high and warm regard which those trained with him have for one who is something more than a mere teacher. Those with whom Dr. Hammer has been associated do not fail to appreciate his deep interest in their welfare and pride in their success. All of which confirms our idea that this commemorative volume is in a way not necessary but perhaps an inevitable tangible expression of the good will of his many co-workers and colleagues.

Dr. Hammer's wide interests have carried him out of the classroom and laboratory, particularly to a diversity of athletic interests and sports. In these activities he has made the time for active participation—with his son, his students and colleagues. His intensity of purpose and interests are splendidly blended with a delightful sense of humor. Finally, it must be acknowledged that his happy family life has had much to do with the man; and the many friends of Dr. and Mrs. Hammer wish them long years of continued happiness and know that the crest of his good work is not yet in sight.