
Obituary

Forrest Rhinehart Immer 1899-1946

Forrest Rhinehart Immer, associate director of the Minnesota Experiment Station and professor of agronomy and plant genetics at the University of Minnesota, died suddenly on 2 February 1946 as a result of a heart attack.

Dr. Immer was born at Spencer, Iowa, on 18 July 1899. While a small boy, he moved with his family to a farm near Jeffers, Minnesota. After graduation from high school in 1917, he entered the service for a few months during World War I. He then entered the University of Minnesota and received his B.S. degree in 1924, his M.S. degree in 1925, and his Ph.D. in 1927.

Dr. Immer served as instructor of plant genetics in the University of Minnesota from 1927 to 1929 and as assistant plant geneticist during 1929-30. He then became associate geneticist with the Division of Sugar Plant Investigations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, serving in this capacity from 1930 to 1935, with headquarters in the Division of Agronomy and Plant Genetics of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station. During this same period he acted as adviser in statistics in the Experiment Station. Soon after accepting this position he was appointed a Fellow of the National Research Council for the year 1930-31 and spent this time in England and Sweden, studying statistics at the Rothamsted Experiment Station, England, under the direction of R. A. Fisher, and plant breeding at the Svalöf Plant Breeding Station, Sweden. In 1935 he rejoined the University of Minnesota as associate professor in the Division of Agronomy and Plant Genetics and occupied this position until 1937, when he was made a full professor. In addition to his duties as professor of agronomy and plant genetics, he was appointed vice-director of the Minnesota Experiment Station in 1941 and became associate director in 1942, in which capacity he served until his death.

One of Dr. Immer's major contributions to science was as a joint author with H. K. Hayes of a book entitled *Methods of plant breeding*, published in 1942.

Another of Dr. Immer's chief contributions was through his students. In recent years, with his added administrative duties, he continued to teach a course in Applied Statistics. His enthusiasm in science and especially in genetics and applied statistics, his fund of information in many fields, and his ever-readiness to help his students attracted an increasing number of

students to his classes and made him an inspiring teacher.

Dr. Immer was called for special duty in England, in 1944, as operations analyst with the Eighth Air Force. Here he was assigned to the Operations Analysis Section, whose duty it was to analyze bombing operations and improve bombing accuracy. For his exemplary service he received citations from Gen. H. H. Arnold and Lt. Gen. J. H. Doolittle.

Dr. Immer returned to his position at the University of Minnesota in November 1944. In his administrative position he was rapidly gaining recognition and assuming leadership in the solution of agricultural problems and was serving as chairman of the Committee on Farm Structures and on Poultry Breeding set up by the directors of the North Central Regional Experiment Stations. He was also chairman of a committee on legislation relating to farm structures for the Association of Land Grant Colleges. He was very active in the American Society of Agronomy, serving on various committees, and was consulting editor in statistics for the journal at the time of his death.

H. K. HAYES

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Homer Jay Wheeler 1861-1945

Homer Jay Wheeler died on 18 November 1945 in the Mountainside Hospital, Montclair, New Jersey. He was born to Quakers, Jesse B. and Martha (Sykes) Wheeler, in Bolton, Massachusetts, on 2 September 1861.

Upon graduation from Massachusetts Agricultural College in 1883, Wheeler was offered a position as assistant to Dr. Goessmann, who had just been made director of the newly established Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station. He accepted the offer and served the Station for four years, thus gaining the unique distinction of having actually performed the first chemical analytical work done there.

Through the influence of Dr. Goessmann, and the generosity and confidence of a friend who loaned him sufficient funds to make the venture possible, he departed from New York for Germany in the summer of 1887 to study for his Ph.D. degree at the University of Goettingen. During his two years at the University he studied under Profs. Victor Meyer, Tollens, Henneberg, and Von Koenen. While there, together