

OBITUARY

FRED CAMPBELL MEIER

FRED CAMPBELL MEIER, a passenger on the Hawaii Clipper, lost near the Philippines on July 28, was born in Riggston, Ill., on April 5, 1893. His father, W. H. D. Meier, rural schoolmaster and superintendent of schools, moved the family to Framingham, Mass., in 1910, took up work at Harvard and obtained his Ph.D. in 1919. It was only natural, perhaps, that the son should also go to Harvard and that the three daughters in this remarkable family should also go in for advanced academic degrees. Father, son and three daughters are all in the sixth edition of "American Men of Science."

After graduation from Harvard, he served as Austin teaching fellow there for two years, being awarded an A.M. in 1917. In 1918 he was offered a position in the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, as assistant pathologist. In about a year he was transferred to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as pathologist, returning to Plant Industry in 1921. In 1922 he was chosen as extension pathologist of the Office of Cooperative Extension Work investigating diseases of cucurbits. He held this position for eight years. It took him up and down the east coast, from the melon field to the market place. In 1930 the Division of Barberry Eradication was formed, and he was placed in charge. He left this position, however, in 1934 and returned to the Extension Service, which position he held at the time of his death.

From 1929 to 1934 he was secretary-treasurer of the American Phytopathological Society and business manager of its publication, *Phytopathology*. Because of his long association with this society and his extensive travels, he became well acquainted with plant disease control problems throughout the United States. He was a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the Cosmos Club, Torch Club and Botanical Society in Washington.

In addition to his work on plant disease control, Meier will be remembered for his work on his hobby, aerobiology. He was intensely interested in the microbial content of the upper air, spending his own money and his vacations devising apparatus, making collections, photographing slides and studying cultures. He showed an uncanny aptitude in making contacts. Commercial airplane officials, as well as the Army and Navy, cooperated with him and made collections possible from the upper air, not only over land, but along the Atlantic coast and over the Caribbean Sea as well. He persuaded Colonel Lindbergh to aid him in designing a "sky-hook," by which samples of spores in the air were collected by the Lindberghs on their trip to Europe across the North Atlantic. Later Amelia Ear-

hart took his apparatus and was making collections for him on her ill-fated round-the-world flight. This was a severe blow, but it did not discourage him.

As a result of his continued efforts, an Interdivisional Committee in the Life Sciences and the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council was appointed in 1937, and Meier was named as chairman. Within a year he had obtained a grant from the National Research Council and the Bureau of Plant Industry, which would enable him to take leave from his official duties in the Extension Service and give two months in the summer of 1938 and four months in the spring of 1939 to this project. Thus at the beginning of the realization of the results of years of thought and effort, when he was really in a position to devote his best efforts to his hobby, his life was suddenly brought to a close. If it had to be, this was a most fitting manner for him to die, engaged in the work he liked best, pioneering in a field that has hardly been touched.

In 1920 he married Agnes W. Eastman, who survives him. He will be missed by a large group of friends, both official and social, who will long remember his unbounded energy and enthusiasm in work or play.

NATHAN R. SMITH

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

VICTOR KING CHESNUT, who had been connected until his retirement in 1933 for thirty-nine years successively as botanist and chemist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, died on August 29 at the age of seventy-one years.

STUART A. STEPHENSON, professor of mathematics and engineering at Rutgers University, died on September 1 at the age of sixty years.

DR. THOMAS R. BOGGS, associate professor of clinical medicine in the Johns Hopkins University Medical School and physician in chief of the Baltimore City Hospital, died on September 2 in his sixty-third year.

DR. ARTHUR EVERETT AUSTIN, emeritus professor of the theory and practice of medicine at the Medical School of Tufts College, Boston, died on August 22 at the age of seventy-seven years. Dr. Austin specialized in diseases of the digestive tract.

DR. JOHN N. LOWE, associate professor of biology at the Northern State Teachers College at Marquette, Mich., died on July 27 in his fifty-second year.

SIR DAVID WILKIE, since 1924 professor of surgery at the University of Edinburgh, died on August 25. He was fifty-six years old. Sir David was known for research in abdominal surgery.