



WILLIAM CARMICHAEL COOK (1895-1967)

William Carmichael Cook, a well-known entomologist for nearly a half century, died of a heart attack at Walla Walla, Washington, February 16, 1967. He had suffered from heart trouble for some years, even before his retirement from the United States Department of Agriculture in 1962 after 32 years of service. Dr. Cook was born in Syracuse, New York, October 2, 1895, obtaining his early education there, including a few years at Syracuse University. In order to major in entomology, he transferred to Cornell University, where he received his B. S. degree in 1917. After a short period in the Army, he became an assistant to the State Entomologist of Minnesota in 1919. He earned his M. S. degree in 1920 and his Ph. D. degree in 1922 from the University of Minnesota. During this time he became very much interested

in the ecology of insects and the effect of climate on their distribution. After his appointment in 1921 as assistant at the Montana Experiment Station at Bozeman, he carried on research on climate and insects with the pale western cutworm, a serious grain pest of the western prairie states. It was during this period that Dr. Cook became interested in the Lepidoptera with special emphasis on the Noctuidae. He was a charter member of The Lepidopterists' Society. He also began to build up his own collection of Noctuids.

In 1930, Dr. Cook took over the research and control of the beet leafhopper in California in the Entomology Research Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture with headquarters at Modesto. These studies resulted in several publications of great worth to the industry and to growers of sugar beets and tomatoes.

In 1943, Dr. Cook was transferred to Walla Walla, Washington, to help with the control of wireworms damaging crops under irrigation in the Pacific Northwest. Here again his enthusiasm for entomological research resulted in a fine publication on the effects of several soil fumigants on wireworms. He was later assigned to the problem of controlling pea aphids, and he soon discovered that they overwintered on alfalfa in areas some distance from the pea fields. By controlling the aphids on alfalfa in early spring by burning or spraying before migration took place, the infestations in the pea fields were greatly reduced.

Dr. Cook is survived by his wife, Muriel Amidon, of Minneapolis, whom he married in 1920, a daughter, Mrs. John A. Barton of Seattle, and two grandchildren. He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Entomological Society of America, Ecological Society of America, The Lepidopterists' Society and Sigma Xi. "Bill" Cook was a dedicated entomologist, ever ready to help and inspire those associated with him. With a good knowledge of statistics as applied to biological research, together with a facility for clear writing, his many publications will stand the test of time.

M. C. Lane, Tacoma, Wash.

E. J. Newcomer, Yakima, Wash.