

HENRY ELLSWORTH EWING 1883-1951

After more than forty years of productive work as teacher and research worker, Henry Ellsworth Ewing died in Washington, D. C. on January 5, 1951.

A native of Illinois, his undergraduate work was done at Knox College and the University of Illinois. His graduate studies, including work under such outstanding teachers as Folsom, Comstock, and Riley, led to the M.A. degree at Illinois in 1908 and to the Ph.D. degree at Cornell in 1911. Three years of service as entomologist at the Oregon Experiment Station (1911-14) were followed by five years at Iowa State College, where he held the ranks of assistant and associate professor, and in 1919 he was called to Washington, on presidential appointment, as a specialist in the Arachnida. To that work he devoted the remaining 32 years of his life.

Ewing's interest in mites was shown as early as 1907 by his publication of a paper based on material collected in Illinois. Through the years, that interest grew, with increasing emphasis on the study of parasitic forms, his publications on mites totaling well over 100 papers. However, his knowledge and activities reached far beyond his field of specialization, including researches on fleas, lice, aphids, and several obscure groups of insects. He even found time to study, in some detail, the biology of box turtles, on whose ectoparasites he was working. The great increase of interest in the study

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of mites, which occurred during his years in Washington, and which he did much to stimulate, entailed a corresponding increase in the demand for identification of mites, and for more than 20 years, preceding World War II, he carried most of this burden for the entire country. After his retirement, which was necessitated by ill health in 1945, he continued to work, organizing for publication some of the data remaining in his files.

In addition to his technical research papers, Ewing wrote several articles of great value to the reading public, published in the Encyclopedia Britannica and the National Geographic Magazine. He was a civic-minded person, took active part in church work, and gave generously of his time to the nature study program of the Boy Scouts of America.

From 1927 until his death, Ewing was a member of the Ecological Society. He was one of the founders of the Helminthological Society of Washington, was president of the Entomological Society of Washington in 1941, and president of the American Society of Parasitologists in 1944.

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