

# Louis Merwin Hurd

*April 5, 1885 — January 23, 1961*

Louis Merwin Hurd, Professor Emeritus of Poultry Husbandry, and for forty-three years a member of the staff of that department, died on January 23, 1961, in Orlando, Florida.

Professor Hurd was born in West Morris, Connecticut, in 1885. He graduated from the Buchanan, New York, high school in 1904 and followed this with a year of postgraduate work at the Skaneateles High School. After attending Syracuse University for one year, he completed short courses in dairying and poultry farming at Cornell in 1909. He joined the Poultry Department staff in 1910 and served in the capacity of extension poultryman until his retirement on March 31, 1953. Soon afterward Professor and Mrs. Hurd moved to Orlando, Florida, where they lived until his death.

Professor Hurd's judgment in his chosen field was respected highly by poultrymen of New York State. In addition, the influence of his ideas and sound judgment extended not only to other states but to many foreign countries as well. He was the author of two books: *Practical Poultry Farming*, published in 1928, and *Modern Poultry Farming*, published in 1944. These books, because of their practical application as well as technical accuracy, were widely read by poultrymen and were translated into many languages for the use of poultry keepers in other parts of the world. During his long career as extension poultryman he wrote many bulletins and journal articles.

He was instrumental in initiating a statewide fowl pox control program in the late 1920s and a pullorum control program in 1935. In 1944, he instituted time and distance studies of poultry chores. During the later years of extension service he devoted considerable study to the problems of duck growers on Long Island and goose raisers throughout the United States. His bulletins in these two fields are still sought by poultrymen.

Professor Hurd was a member and past president of the Cornell chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi, national honorary extension fraternity. After initiating the awards of merit for members in the local chapter in 1947, he served as chairman of the awards committee from 1947 to 1950. He was also a member and past president of the Cornell Extension Club, which he helped to organize. He was a member of the Poultry Science Association and served that organization as a director from 1940 to 1944.

The New York State Fair and many county fair groups relied heavily upon Professor Hurd's knowledge of production judging. He was in charge of the production poultry and egg shows at the New York State Fair in Syracuse for

several years. From 1918 to 1937 Cornell held a one-week Poultry Judging School, which attracted students from throughout the United States as well as some foreign countries. Professor Hurd contributed much to the success of those schools and to a statewide culling program carried out by the county agricultural agents for a number of years.

One of Professor Hurd's greatest contributions to the industry of New York State was his ability to give sound management assistance through farm visits in company with the county agricultural agents. His background of practical farm experience, coupled with a sincere desire to be of assistance to poultrymen, helped him to gain the trust and friendship of those with whom he came in contact.

Professor Hurd was a devoted son, husband, and father. His first wife, Ella Hurd, died in 1940. For a number of years his mother helped to carry on the home responsibilities. He was married in 1948 to Margaret Severin Derry, and they purchased a home in Orlando, Florida, soon after his retirement in 1953.

One daughter, Caroline Hurd Wallenbach, died of polio suddenly in 1953, leaving a family of three children. A son, David Hurd, lives in Ithaca.

*J. H. Bruckner, W. G. Earle, D. R. Marble*