

Earl Louis Brunett

December 12, 1898 — May 14, 1943

After an illness of more than a year, Dr. E. L. Brunett, Associate Professor of Poultry Diseases in the New York State Veterinary College, died at his home on the afternoon of Friday, May 14, 1943. Until a few days before his death he performed his duties at the office and laboratory with the same good cheer that had always characterized him despite the fact that illness enforced a considerable slowing down of his normal tempo of living and working. He is survived by his wife, the former Loretta K. Hirsch, his father, and two brothers.

Dr. Brunett was born on December 12, 1898, at Utica, New York. He first came to Cornell in the fall of 1918 and for a few months was enrolled in the Student Army Training Corps. He supported himself while an undergraduate by serving as student assistant in the Department of Pathology and Bacteriology. He joined the staff of the College upon receiving the degree Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1923. Completion of graduate study earned him the Master of Science from Cornell in 1927. He was promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor in 1927 and became an Associate Professor in 1940. In the summer of 1930 he was the official delegate of the College at the International Veterinary Congress held in London.

Dr. Brunett was one of the first veterinarians in the State to devote himself entirely to the study of diseases of poultry. When, in 1925, he was chosen by the late Dean Moore to head the poultry disease laboratory, a tremendous task in adult education lay ahead. Poultrymen had to be taught methods of disease prevention and control, and veterinarians had to be apprised of their obligations to a small but rapidly growing industry. That progress has since been made is due in no small part to the skill, enthusiasm, good nature, and sense of humor of Dr. Brunett. He quickly established himself as one of the leading poultry pathologists in the country. When fowl plague, an extremely devastating virus disease, made its appearance in the United States in 1924, Dr. Brunett was the first to make the diagnosis and set the machinery in motion for its eradication. He played an important part in establishing a program of pullorum disease control in New York when that disease was taking a tremendous toll of chicks. He initiated an effective fowl-pox control program by the immunization of birds with vaccine which was produced in his laboratory. His wide experience with that disease was recognized when he was invited to write the section on fowl-pox for a recently published book to which thirty-three well known investigators contributed. His application of the system of raising poultry, known as "confinement rearing," was responsible for the survival of many poultry enterprises which were on the verge of failure because of the existence of parasitic disease in the flocks.

Dr. Brunett was popular with the poultrymen who admired him not only for his professional skill but also as a man. The veterinary profession never had a more staunch supporter. His efforts to interest and train students and practitioners in avian diseases were persistent and successful. Charlatanism and quackery both in and out of the profession received short shrift from him and his views were expressed in unequivocal terms. This characteristic may have antagonized some people who misunderstood his sincerity and singleness of purpose.

Dr. Brunett's other activities and affiliations were many and varied. He served as business manager for the *Cornell Veterinarian* for six years. He was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, New York State Veterinary Medical Society, Southern Tier Veterinary Medical Association, Poultry Science Association, Laboratory Workers in Pullorum Disease Control, Society of American Bacteriologists, Phi Zeta, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, and Omega Tau Sigma.

In his limited life span, Dr. Brunett has left a lasting influence on the poultry industry and his passing will be keenly felt. The death of "Beno," as he was affectionately known to his colleagues and friends, has removed an unselfish, ebullient personality from the scene of which he was an irreplaceable part.