



GEORGE BATES MERRILL
(1886—1971)

George Bates Merrill, retired Chief Entomologist of the State Plant Board of Florida (now Division of Plant Industry), was born in North Abington, Massachusetts in 1886. He died June 28, 1971 and was buried at the Hillcrest Memorial Park in Gainesville. Mr. Merrill attended the Massachusetts Agricultural College and the University of Florida, where he received a BSA degree in 1933. He joined the staff of the State Plant Board in 1916 and was the assistant entomologist until 1922, associate entomologist from 1922 to 1943, and the chief entomologist from 1943 to 1956 when he retired.

His early work was with gypsy and brown-tail moths in Massachusetts and with sugarcane insects in Puerto Rico. He later became a specialist in the Coccoidae or scale insects and authored a book, "A Revision of the Scale Insects of Florida," published in 1953. He made the identification of the adult Medfly collected in Florida April 11, 1929, which was the first infestation of this pest in the United States. He was a charter member of the Florida Entomological Society, served as its president for three terms, and was awarded a citation by the Society in 1968 for his distinguished service.

He was a member of the Gainesville Rotary Club for 26 years, Theta Chi, the F. and A. M. No. 41 and received his 50 year pin from the Masonic Lodge in 1966. He was quite active in boy scout work and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. His survivors include a daughter, Mrs. William Gartner, Jr., Tallahassee; one son, George B. Merrill, Jr., Lakeland; two sisters, Mrs. H. M. Tillman, Cape Coral; Lt. Col. Eleanor W. Merrill, Miami; and five grandchildren.

H A. Denmark

