

## DR. MARION DORSET DEAD FAMOUS TENNESSEE SCIENTIST

A brilliant scientific career devoted to public service was ended with the death of Dr. Marion Dorset, July 14, at his home in Washington, D. C., after an illness of a few days. As a research worker in biological chemistry and chief of the Biochemic Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Doctor Dorset gained an international reputation for contributions having useful applications in the live stock, meat, and dairy industries, and in public health.

Although known especially for his research studies of hog cholera and his discovery of an effective preventive serum treatment for this devastating scourge, Doctor Dorset made many other important scientific contributions covering a wide field.

They included research studies on the tubercle bacillus, keeping qualities of meats, composition, and nutritive value of various meats and meat food products, the development and testing of disinfectants and dipping preparations, biological products used against animal diseases, research in dairy bacteriology, and extensive related work. His production of a harmless and effective fluid for marking federally inspected meats has saved the United States Government millions of dollars through the greater economy of this method over the former practice of using tags. Dr. Dorset likewise proposed and outlined many investigations which his associates carried out with beneficial results to agriculture and public welfare. One of these was the rapid method of detecting pullorum disease in chickens, a discovery that has been a boon to the poultry industry. In connection with the nation-wide campaign to eradicate bovine tuberculosis, all the tuberculin used by Federal veterinarians has been produced under the immediate supervision of Dr. Dorset.

He was born in Columbia, Tennessee, in 1872. After graduating from the University of Tennessee, in 1893, with the degree of Bachelor of Science, he attended the University of Pennsylvania, Medical Department, for a year. Dr. Dorset then entered the United States Department of Agriculture as assistant chemist, working with the late Dr. E. A. de Schweinitz. While there employed he continued his scientific education at George Washington University, Medical Department, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1896. Eight years later he became chief of the Biochemic Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, a position which he held until his death. Dr. Dorset also held the honorary degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, awarded by Iowa State College.

On the occasion of his discovery of anti-hog-cholera serum, Dr. Dorset had the opportunity to acquire wealth through the manufacture and sale of this product for which a large demand promptly developed. But after applying for and receiving a patent, he gave it to the gov-

ernment and to the public so that any person in the United States might use the method without the payment of royalty.

Dr. Dorset organized the Federal inspection of establishments licensed to manufacture serums, viruses, toxins, and related veterinary biological products. He likewise formulated the laboratory procedures in the administration of the Federal Meat Inspection Act. He was a member of numerous scientific bodies and frequently presented papers at national and international meetings.

His counsel on research problems was widely sought and he was active in both administrative and laboratory work until a few days before his death, caused by coronary thrombosis. Dr. Dorset is survived by his widow, a son, and a daughter.