**To The Memory Of Dr. Leunis Van Es (1868-1956)\***

It is highly appropriate that provision has been made during this, the thirty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases, to offer a tribute to the memory of the late Dr. Leunis Van Es, a distinguished scientist and one of the founders of this organization.

Although the name Van Es has been indelibly recorded in the literature pertaining to a score or more of diseases of animals, many of the present members of this organization did not have the privilege of knowing Dr. Van Es or even of seeing him. To make this occasion more meaningful for those of us who were fortunate in having had his friendship and his confidence, as well as for those who did not know him. I am going to have projected a copy of a portrait. This, I believe, is a faithful likeness of Dr. Van Es during his most productive years. [Slide projected.]

Dr. Van Es was of distinguished appearance, gentlemanly bearing and quiet demeanor. He was kindly, a good companion, and a shrewd judge of character, and he possessed a fine sense of humor. Those who were so fortunate as to have his friendship developed for him a lasting affection.

This is not a suitable occasion at which to present a biographical sketch of Dr. Van Es. Rather, I should like to mention some of the many admirable attributes which accounted for his notable accomplishments and for his stature as a man and a scientist.

His scholarly mind equipped him for keen analytical discernment. Importantly, he had a clear sense of reality and this is evident in his professional contributions. His probing curiosity corresponded with the broad range of his scientific interests. He made substantial contributions on such diverse subjects as tetanus, so-called swamp fever, anthrax, parasitic anaphylaxis, enzootic hepatic cirrhosis, swine erysipelas, and both bovine and avian tuberculosis. Every project that he undertook was executed with such dedication that there always emerged new facts and a reappraisal of the problem that provided guideposts for those who wished to continue where Van Es left off.

The experiments he planned and executed were, and are, models of the procedures necessary to obtain valid scientific evidence. His conclusions were based squarely on facts. The published accounts of his many investigations are classic examples of factual circumspection. Having schooled himself in scientific discipline, he was intolerant of work improperly done and of workers who extended their conclusions beyond the evidence.

Dr. Van Es considered integrity the indispensable constituent of character, and to compromise when integrity was at stake was to him unthinkable. He was a ruthless and fearless opponent of sham and fakery, regardless of how respectably clad they might appear to be. His reaction to pseudoscientists and to pretenders is well expressed in the words of Goethe, “There is nothing more terrifying than ignorance in action.” Van Es was indeed an ardent disciple of truth.

Finally it can be fittingly said of Dr. Van Es that he exalted the pursuit of science not for personal aggrandizement but in order to discover and correlate facts in the service of mankind. He lived the good life because he knew the meaning of existence.

As a manifestation of our appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Van Es for his important role in bringing our organization into being, and as a tribute to the memory of one who by precept and example contributed to the objectives and ideals that we as members of this society cherish, let us stand and observe a few moments of silence.

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