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INTRODUCTION

HAROLD W. MANTER AND PARASITOLOGY

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Ladies and gentlemen, I bring you greetings from President James Zumberge of Southern Methodist University. Dr. Zumberge was closely associated with the planning and development of this magnificent center and is pleased it has come to fruition. He has specifically asked me to convey to you that he holds very warm feelings for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, its faculty, and students.

This building is being dedicated to the memory of Harold Winfred Manter, Professor of Zoology and Anatomy and later Professor Emeritus at this University. The late Professor Manter was 72 years of age when he died in 1971; but what was it about this remarkable man which brings us here from many parts of the Nation to participate and share in this dedication? In looking around I see the Dean of American Parasitologists, Dr. Horace Wesley Stunkard, and Dr. Justus Frederick Mueller, Editor of the *Journal of Parasitology* for many years, both students of Professor Henry Baldwin Ward who preceded Dr. Manter, and like Dr. Manter are both past presidents of the American Society of Parasitologists. They have travelled a long distance to be here with us. I am deeply moved. I also see Dr. Raymond Cable also a past President of the American Society of Parasitologists, who drove all night from Lafayette, Indiana, to be here today.

Professor Manter was born in Anson, Maine, on June 18, 1898. He earned his B.A. from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. After earning the B.A. he enrolled as a graduate student at the University of Illinois, studying under the direction of Henry Baldwin Ward, and earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in 1923 and 1925 respectively. Upon finishing the Ph.D. degree, Dr. Manter served on the faculty of Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, for one year before coming to the University of Nebraska as an Assistant Professor where he stayed until his death. It so happened that Dr. Ward, his own major professor, had introduced courses in

parasitology at Nebraska in 1894. These courses were taken over by Dr. Franklin Barker when Dr. Ward left Nebraska for Illinois, and then assumed by Dr. Manter when Dr. Barker left Nebraska for Northwestern University. By 1935 Manter was a full professor and he assumed the chairmanship of his department in 1953, serving in that capacity for eight years. During these fruitful and greatly satisfying years he taught, did research, and travelled widely, collecting parasites which he brought back to Nebraska for study. For those of the younger generation who have never operated a research program without grant funds, for many years Dr. Manter financed his research out-of-pocket, because research grants were almost nonexistent. He used to tell me, "If you really want to do research, you'll find a way of doing it."

This shy and inspiring teacher was the mentor of more than 55 students who earned advanced degrees under his direction. Most of his former students hold academic positions of responsibility in respected universities throughout the United States and abroad. I have always felt that Dr. Manter had a subtle way of teaching by example; the "code" went something like this: always do your job; work hard; you aren't really as tired as you think you are; set high academic standards—there is no substitute for excellence; be a modest, decent, proper, and moral person, and everything will fall into place. I want to tell you of an example of the kind of graduate produced by this department. From among the many distinguished graduates I will select Dr. Jack K. Wickstrom, a former undergraduate student, who parenthetically does not know he is the subject of dissection this afternoon. I secretly connived, without his knowledge, with his administrative assistant, Ms. Irene Thibodeaux, to obtain some details about Dr. Wickstrom since he is an exceedingly modest man. Professor Jack Wickstrom is Chairman of Orthopedics at Tulane University School of Medicine and exemplifies the "code" of graduates of this department. He was an undergraduate at Nebraska during the great depression and he once told me that it was Harold Manter who kept him in school by providing a job drawing instructional Leuckart-type charts. He later graduated from medical school and among the many honors he was to receive during a very distinguished career, one was the Gold Medal of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery. This is what one might have expected of one of ours, but let me tell you another story few people know: During the Second World War he served in the South Pacific. He was sailing on a vessel shelled by the Japanese, and being high up in the vessel received several shrapnel wounds and was struck a heavy blow to the head when catapulted through the air to a lower level. Although himself wounded, Dr. Wickstrom remained on duty for two weeks treating the wounded until he finally went into convulsions and a coma at Tulagi, Guadalcanal. From there he was evacuated to the Fiji Islands and then returned to the United States. He later continued service through at least 1944. For his devotion to duty Dr. Wickstrom received two Purple Hearts and a presidential citation. Harold Manter could recognize character and quality in individuals, and once when I mentioned to him that Dr. Wickstrom had treated me for an inflammation of a clavicular-acromial joint at Tulane, he simply smiled. He remembered "young" Wickstrom and knew of and was very proud of his accomplishments. He personally delighted in the successes of his students but never bragged. The people of Nebraska should likewise be proud of the products of their main University.

Dr. Manter became an internationally recognized scholar in the area of parasitology, and during his career named more than 300 species and 66 genera of parasites. But his works were not confined to taxonomic studies. He pioneered zoogeographic studies of parasites and was intensely interested in the evolutionary biology of host-parasite relationships, especially at the population levels. His students, upon his retirement in 1966, established the Harold Winfred Manter Prize for Outstanding Research in Zoology at the University of Nebraska. His students came from as far as Australia for this ceremony. His colleagues at home and abroad showered many honors upon this very gentle man. Several genera and many species of animals have been named in his honor. His colleagues elected him president of the American Microscopical Society, the American Society of Parasitologists, Presiding Officer of the Annual Midwestern Conference of Parasitologists, and he served two terms on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Parasitology*. He also served on national advisory panels at the National Science Foundation and was elected Emeritus Member of the American Society of Parasitologists and Honorary Member of the American Microscopical Society. In 1968, Dr. Manter was named the first curator of the first Division of Parasitology of the University of Nebraska State Museum. This division is now known as the Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology and many scholars, both nationally and from abroad, come here to study the systematics of parasites. Despite all of these honors Professor Manter was an humble and dedicated man who always found time to advise younger people and students and to shower much affection and kindness upon them.

It is only fitting that the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska decided September 10, 1977 to name this new center the Manter Hall of Life Sciences.

The University of Nebraska is the cradle of parasitology in the United States. The first university parasitology course taught in the United States was offered here by Henry Baldwin Ward in 1894 and the tradition in this field was carried out principally under Dr. Manter's leadership for a period of about 40 years, and was later ably assumed by Professors John J. Janovy, Jr., Brent B. Nickol, and my dear former classmate Mary Hanson Pritchard.

The World Health Organization has ranked the top six diseases and killers of humans in the world. The first five are parasitic diseases and include organisms causing diseases such as malaria, schistosomiasis, trypanosomiasis, and filariasis. Many parasitic diseases affect the livestock of our nation and in some foreign countries deprive populations of desperately needed protein. Domestic animals simply cannot be raised in some areas of the world due to parasitic diseases. While many of the graduates of this institution have made international reputations in the study of parasites of medical importance, both veterinary and human, and one need only cite the distinguished names of Coatney, Cort, Hall, Hansen, Kelly, LaRue, Moore, Ransom, and Todd in this regard, the major contributions made by this institution have been in the area of parasitology as a basic science and in the education of broadly trained parasitologists who can cope with global problems caused by parasitic diseases --be they at the molecular, organismic, or population levels.

It is thus very appropriate that The University of Nebraska has selected a basic science topic, such as "Host-parasite interfaces: population, individual, and molecular levels," in commemoration of this dedication. Dr. Manter would have heartily approved.

The evolution of host-parasite interactions at different levels forms a fascinating subject for investigation and discussion. These biological phenomena can range from the very obvious even to an untrained observer, to the very subtle--almost ephemeral and unnoticed except to the keenest and most highly trained observers using the most sophisticated techniques and equipment of the day. Later we shall hear of interfaces between populations and individuals, followed by molecular confrontations, and finally the evolutionary origins of intracellular parasitism. I would like to compliment the symposium committee on the selection of such an outstanding group of scientists, all leaders in their individual fields of research.