

ACADEMICIAN SÁNDOR KOTLÁN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80th BIRTHDAY

On July 14th 1967, Academician Sándor Kotlán, the prominent Hungarian parasitologist, celebrated his 80th birthday. Born at Smolenice (Slovakia) as the son of a veterinary surgeon, young Sándor Kotlán followed in his father's footsteps and graduated in veterinary medicine in Budapest in 1911. His interest in parasitology began whilst an assistant of pathology. After a short-lived stay in Vienna in 1918, he returned to Budapest, where his studies became fully devoted to parasitology. In the years 1924–1925 he worked in the U.S.A. On his return in 1925, he was appointed professor of parasitology at the Veterinary School in Budapest; in 1927, he became Fellow of the Helminthological Society of Washington. In addition to parasitology, professor Kotlán devoted much of his time to zoology, botany and other branches of natural sciences, fully applying the knowledge obtained from these studies to his work on parasitology. This work covered a very wide range including not only studies on taxonomy and the life cycles of parasites, but also on therapy and the clinic of parasitoses. Most important are his studies on coccidia of domestic and wild animals, on some important flagellates and on the development of some helminths of domestic animals. He was also most successful in his studies on ticks.

Of his more recent works, the compendium "Helminthologie", published in German, deserves to be mentioned. Academician Kotlán belongs to the Pleiades of Hungarian veteri-

narians such as Marek, Hutyra a. o. His activities were not only confined to scientific work, but to him also must be attributed much credit for helping to educate veterinary practitioners and scientific workers, for developing and promoting an interest in parasitology and for participating in international control actions against parasites of domestic fowl. His outstanding ability as a field worker, an investigator and an author have been recognized not only in his home country, but also all over the world. He was awarded the National Prize of Kossuth, the Hungarian Order of Labour and the Order of the Red Banner. He also became a Member of many international scientific societies and organisations. In 1952 he was elected Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The whole life of Academician Kotlán has been devoted to science, teaching and organising scientific work. In that he has always been an example not only to his pupils, but to all parasitologists of Europe. He has never forgotten his Czechoslovak origin and has kept up most friendly contacts with Czechoslovak scientists, thus paving the ground for a prosperous collaboration among the parasitologists of both countries and helping to solve many important common problems. On the occasion of his 80th birthday, the Czechoslovak parasitologists are paying homage to the scientific work of Academician Kotlán and are wishing him good health for many more years to come.

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