

THE 50th BIRTHDAY OF ACADEMICIAN A. A. SPASSKY

On July 7th 1967, one of the foremost Soviet parasitologists celebrated his 50th birthday, having devoted 30 years of his life to scientific work. Academician Spassky started to publish scientific papers whilst a student of the Gorki University, where he was given the opportunity to participate in helminthological expeditions organised by Academician K. I. Skryabin. His main interest has always been centered on cestodes and his numerous papers have greatly contributed to the knowledge on these helminths. Just recently, the first volume of an extensive monographical study on cestodes of the suborder Anoplocephalata and of the family Hymenolepididae has been published. In collaboration with his wife, professor L. P. Spasskaya, Academician Spassky reworked in 1957 in a most original way the systematics of cestodes of the family Hymenolepididae and his arrangement of this taxonomically very complicated family is now being used in the world literature. One of the typical features of Academician Spassky's work is his untiring endeavour to find new ways and to solve problems in an original manner. He is always ready

to revise ideas and concepts which he feels are no longer valid and thus to call forth lively discussions among the specialists. As one of Academician Skryabin's pupils, he has worked for many years under his leadership at the Helminthological Laboratory of the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow. In 1962, he was elected Member of the Moldavian Academy of Sciences and also made vicepresident of this Academy. At the present, his function in the Moldavian Academy of Sciences is that of Academician-Secretary in the Department of biological and chemical sciences. Under his guidance as Head of the Parasitological Laboratory of the Zoological Institute of the Moldavian Academy of Sciences, this still very young Laboratory has achieved some considerable successes. There have always been very close personal and scientific bonds with his colleagues in Czechoslovakia and therefore, the Czechoslovak parasitologists take this opportunity to wish Academician Spassky many successes in his personal life and at work in the years to come.

B. Ryšavý