

IN MEMORIAM ČEDOMIR P. SIMIĆ

Early this year the parasitological science has lost one of its most important representatives, Dr Čedomir P. Simić, Professor of the Veterinary Faculty in Belgrade and one of its founders. He was born on June 28, 1896 in the Serbian village Čumić and died on January 5, 1969 in Belgrade after a long illness.

He started his medical studies in Paris 1919, then transferred to the Strasbourg University where he graduated in 1924. After a short period in his home country he went to Paris where he worked for one year with Professor E. Brumpt, studying the problems of tropical medicine and malariology. On his return home he was made Head of the Department of Parasitology and Malariology of the Hygiene Institute in Skoplje, Macedonia and in 1932 became its Director. In 1936 he was appointed Professor of Parasitology of the new Veterinary Faculty of the Belgrade University. While organizing the new faculty he established its Institute of Parasitology.

After the liberation of Belgrade in 1944 Č. P. Simić returned to his post at the University and helped organize and reconstruct the war-damaged faculty and his institute. In 1948 he was elected Member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences.

The scientific activities of Č. P. Simić were extremely broad. Before the Second World War with great enthusiasm he devoted his efforts to malariology, one of the most important medical problems at that time in Macedonia; the research of the fauna of mosquitoes and sandflies and pappataci fever; studies on amoebiasis, protozoan parasites of man and domestic animals. His work laid the foundations of the knowledge of parasites in this part of the Balkan Peninsula, uninvestigated prior to his activities.

Since 1945 Č. P. Simić and his co-workers conducted studies on visceral leishmaniasis and the fauna of sand flies in Yugoslavia, research of protozoans and helminths of school children, coccidia and trichomonas. Equally important were his studies on piroplasmoses of livestock

and sheep and on the fauna of ticks and their seasonal dynamics in Yugoslavia, as well as the research of echinococcosis. Since 1954 he focused much of his attention to toxoplasmosis, its epidemiology and epizootiology, premunition and route of transmission.

Č. P. Simić was the author of more than 220 scientific papers, published in Yugoslavia and abroad. He wrote many textbooks, treatises and monographs. Under his supervision many veterinarians, physicians and biologists received their inspiration and training in his laboratories. His wide experience covering a variety of aspects in parasitology also brought about his successful participation in international scientific organizations. He was Chairman of the „Commission de l'echinococcosis de l'Office international des épizooties“, for many years served as Chairman and Professor of International Courses of Malaria, held in Belgrade by the World Health Organization, and Chairman of some Yugoslav National Commissions.

Professor Simić was highly esteemed not only in his own country, but was also admired by many friends the world over. He was holder of Order of the French Legion of Honour, Corresponding Member of the Veterinary Academy in France, member of many national and international scientific societies. In December 1967 he received the National Prize AVNOJ, the highest Yugoslav state award, for his professional and community services.

Between the Czechoslovak parasitologists and Professor Simić there were always friendly bonds which were based on common interest in very similar research problems solved in both countries and on long traditions of Czechoslovak-Yugoslav relations. Together with his Yugoslav associates in science the Czechoslovak parasitologists deeply mourn his decease and will never forget Professor Simić, a kind man as well as a truly great scientist, whose work will always continue to exert its influence.

Prof. Dr. Zlatibor Petrović

Prof. Dr. Bohumír Rosický