ria. This explains also the dominating occurrence of subulurosis in fowl kept in wire cages. By contrast, the relatively low resistance of eggs exposed to the sun explains the low incidence and larval burden and also the low incidence of intermediate hosts in chicken farms, where the hens are kept on deep litter and where unshaded, hard runs are nearby. The eggs of *S. suctoria* are more resistant to lower temperatures than the larvae of this nematode species in the intermediate host, in which development becomes arrested at temperatures below +20 °C.

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FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY OF DR. JAROSLAV WEISER

This year Dr. Jaroslav Weiser has reached the age of fifty. To those who have known him as a person this age seems to be considerable, but those who have known him as a scientist are amazed to find him so young.

Weiser's name in Czechoslovakia and in the world is firmly connected with pathology of insects which has gone through a successful renaissance in the middle of this century thanks to Steinhaus and Weiser.

J. Weiser was born on January 13, 1920 in Prague. Shortly before the second world war he started his studies at the Natural Sciences Faculty, Charles University in Prague. His studies were forcibly interrupted by the occupation and the war which also tragically affected his family. At that time he worked at a factory in the Czech-Moravian Highland, devoting his free time at home to the studies of protozoology, and his first papers on microsporidia date from that period. After the liberation he returned to the university and in 1946 received his degree in natural sciences (RNDr.). At first he acted as teaching assistant in paraitology with Professor Jírovec, Charles University in Prague, later he took the post of lecturer at the University of Sarajevo in Yugoslavia. In 1951 he left his post at the Charles University and became head of the parasitological department of the then Central Biological Institute in Prague. After the establishment of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in 1954 this institute became part of the Academy and J. Weiser created a new department—Insect Pathology. As a result of subsequent reorganization this department was incorporated in the new Institute of Entomology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, and has been headed by him until now. In 1962 he was granted the doctor of sciences degree (DSc.) and in 1968 was elected Corresponding Member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. For his services rendered in the

foundation and development of insect pathology in this country he was awarded the state prize of Klement Gottwald (1964). In 1969—1970 he has acted as visiting professor at the Simon Frazer University in Canada.

Weiser's scientific activities are extensive. They cover various fields from initial studies in protozoology and parasitology, such as mosquito and malaria control (together with Havlík, Novák and Hutník) in eastern Slovakia and southern Moravia, to insect pathology including theoretical, applied and organizational problems. As early as 1948 he was the first to describe rickettsiae pathogenous to insects, studied viroses of insects (pox-virus of Ceratopogonidae, iridescens virus of mosquitoes, proposed taxonomy of viruses), fungi related to protozoans (Chitridiacae, Haplosporidia) and entomophores in mites and mosquitoes. His chief domain, however, continued to be microsporidia, schizogregarines and coccidia in insects. His thirty years' studies yielded a comprehensive set of papers covering problems from taxonomy to epizootology, to attempts at practical application in biological control. His studies on worms harmful to insects resulted in papers dealing with *Neoaplectana glaseri* and describing the developed method of its cultivation in laboratory. On his initiativet he first bacterial (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) as well as fungal preparations for the biological control of insects were developed. It has not been his fault that these preparations have not yet been put on the market by industrial production in this country.

J. Weiser is the author of more than 176 scientific publications, including 5 books. His latest two books, "Diseases of Insects" (Academia, 1966, in Czech) and "An Atlas of Insect Diseases" (Academia, 1969) may be listed as basic works summarizing and commenting on the results achieved in the field of pathology of insects.

J. Weiser has been the organizer of the Department of Insects Pathology in this country. Although his knowledge in this field is wide and synthetic—and this feature by itself is rather remarkable today—he has based the work of the department on the work of specialists in individual lines and has been furthering research by propagating progressive fields such as biochemistry and physiology. He organized the first international conference of pathology of insects which has become the initial link in the chain of subsequent periodically held world conferences on this subject (in France, Netherlands, USA). His initiative for world-wide cooperation between insect pathologists from the West and the East bore fruit not only at these conferences and other similar meetings, but also affected the composition of foreign post-graduate students and visiting scientists in Prague during the last decade. He is member of international organizations and their committees as well as of scientific societies. Apart from Australia he travelled as insect pathologist all over the world representing the Czechoslovak science. After the death of Toumanoff and Steinhaus J. Weiser is the only surviving founder of modern insect pathology as a comprehensive scientific discipline in the world.

All his colleagues at home and abroad wish J. Weiser many happy returns of the day and much success in his further work.

Dr. O. LYSENKO, CSc.