

SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY OF Dr KAMIL KUČERA

Kamil Kučera was born on December 25, 1910 in Ráječek, (now Zábřeh) in northern Moravia. After attending secondary school in Místek, Zlaté Moravce, Dijon (France) and Brno, young Kučera enrolled at the Medical Faculty of the former Masaryk University (now Purkyně University) in Brno. Already during his studies he became interested in microbiology and parasitology which were then disciplines included in pathologic anatomy. In these studies he received much support and encouragement from one of his tutors, Professor Neumann, the author of numerous publications on parasitic diseases.

In 1938 Dr Kučera took the post of voluntary assistant at the microbiological department of the Medical Faculty in Brno. In 1939 he became head of the central laboratory at the hospital in Zlín (now Gottwaldov) where he was primarily engaged in the studies on vaginal trichomoniasis, intestinal parasitic diseases and since 1952 pneumocystis. After the Second World War he devoted his efforts to the organization of Czechoslovak health service and of its diagnostic laboratories. In 1948 he became Associate Professor of microbiology at the Purkyně University in Brno and Head of the Microbiology and Pathologic Anatomy Departments at the Palacký University in Olomouc. In 1956 Dr Kučera joined the staff of the Protozoology Department of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences which was later incorporated in the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague.

He continued his studies on the epidemiology of trichomoniasis, its diagnosis by means of fluorescent antibodies and on the chemotherapy of this disease. His main interest, however, was directed to the problems of pneumocystosis, using as basis his experience in microbiology,

pathologic anatomy, serology and epidemiology. He studied the morphology and developmental cycle of *Pneumocystis carinii* and supplemented his studies with the research of ultrastructure of this parasite. Later he focused his attention to the epidemiological research of pneumocystosis and assembled a large material which he submitted to careful analysis. These studies partly resulted in a series of papers on the epidemiology of pneumocystosis, but the major part of the comprehensive epidemiological material has been summarized in a monograph on pneumocystosis which is nearly completed now. Besides his primary interest in pneumocystosis, he has also paid attention to problems of toxoplasmosis, systematic position of *Sergentella spiroides* and to problems of adiaspiromycosis and leishmaniasis in this country.

Besides serving as Head of the Protozoology Department, Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Dr Kučera reads lectures in medical microbiology for students in parasitology at the Natural Sciences Faculty, Charles University in Prague and is an active member of several scientific societies in this country and abroad. He published a number of scientific papers covering different medical branches, mainly microbiology and parasitology (see Fendrych: Bibliography of Czechoslovak Parasitological Literature until 1961 and supplement, Academia, Prague 1966) and is the author of text books on microbiology.

A friendly, courteous, scholarly man and wise counsellor, devoted to his family, his work and associates in science, Dr Kučera celebrates his 60th anniversary in full activity and vigour, which were so characteristic in the past period of his life.

Dr. J. Vávra, CSc.

