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A seminar in honour of 75th birthday of Dr. K. Rašín

Between November 15 and 16, 1973 the Parasitological Commission of the Czech Academy of Agriculture jointly with the Department of pathological morphology and parasitology, the Department of diseases of fowl, fishes and game animals of the Veterinary College in Brno and the Veterinary Surgeons Society organized a two-day seminar on the occasion of 75th birthday of Dr. Karel Rašín, the pioneer of Czechoslovak veterinary parasitology in whose honour the seminar was called "the Rašín days".

Karel Rašín, formerly Assistant of the Institute of Zoology and Parasitology attached to the Veterinary College in Brno and later Director of Bioveta pharmaceutical works at Ivanovice in Haná, is a parasitologist whose work can be called pioneering and whose scientific methods may serve as a model for systematic work even today. He was engaged in the studies on life cycles of some helminths, in the research of toxoplasmosis, tularemia, primarily paying attention to ichthyopathology and to game animals. In later years he returned

to the problems of toxoplasmosis. While working at the Veterinary College he was the first veterinary parasitologist to set up close contacts with the parasitologists of the young Soviet State and his works were based on the Soviet parasitological schools. For his services in the veterinary parasitology and in the organization of institutes for the production of vaccines against bacterial and viral diseases of domestic animals, during the grand meeting at the opening of the "Rašín days" he was presented the Babák medal by the Rector of the Veterinary College and was given congratulatory addresses and honours by the representatives of the State Veterinary Administration and some other institutions. Dr. Rašín's services for the development of veterinary medicine were evaluated by Prof. Zendulka, the Rector of the Veterinary College, Doc. Dr. Polák, the Director of the State Veterinary Administration, by Doc. Dr. Krul and Prof. Dr. Dyk.

The working programme of the first day session included problems of toxoplasmosis and cysticercosis. Zendulka reported on the status of the present knowledge on these diseases with special regard to the recent opinions about the systematic position of *Toxoplasma gondii* and Hojliček pointed out the necessity of paying greater attention to toxoplasmosis of animals from the aspect of research as well as diagnostics. Dubanský and Doskočil reported on the occurrence of toxoplasmosis in rabbit breeding in Cuba.

Dobeš discussed the tasks in the suppression of cattle cysticercosis from the aspect of veterinary hygiene worker. Besides other things he pointed out that devitalisation of cysticerci by meat freezing was too expensive and that other preventive measures should be considered. Musil and Musilová presented the results of their studies on the distribution of cattle cysticercosis in Western Bohemia. They reported that in about 10 recent years an increase of cysticercosis has been recorded and that the percentage of infected cattle killed at abattoirs varies between 1.3 and 2.3 %. In Western Bohemia it occurs in 68 % of settlements. The increase of cysticercosis is ascribed to the changes in the movement of human population in nature, but partly also to a more detailed statistical evaluation and careful examination of animals killed at abattoirs.

valuation and careful examination of animals killed at abattoirs.

In the Seminar section on the diseases of fishes and game animals which took place on November 16, six papers were read on the pathology of fishes, giving information about the organization of veterinary care in fish breeding (Tesarčík, Ungerman), about the possible use of some modern methods of biochemistry and hematology in the diagnostics of fish diseases (Červinka) and about the clinical and pathological aspects of some diseases recently discovered in the territory of Czechoslovakia (Červinka et al.). Five papers dealt with parasitoses of game animals. Dyk and Chroust studied parasitic invasions of moufflons and roe deer by coccidia and helminths and established the fact that the moufflon is a constant reservoir of parasites in particular area and that the adults harbour three times as many species of coccidia and helminths as the roe deer. Zavadil pointed out the occurrence and pathogenicity of *Tetratrichomonas gallinarum* in pheasant farms and Willomitzer and Chroustová reported about new trends in the complex control of fasciolosis in wild ruminants. They emphasized the good effects of BHS (bis 2-hydroxy-3, 5-dichlorophenyl sulphoxide) and hinted at the possibility of using *Sepedon spinipes* larvae in the biological control of *Galba truncatula*. Ševčík and Daněk presented the results of their studies on the effects of Clopidol (methylchlorpindol) used in the prevention of coccidiosis in pheasants and declared this preparation, as added to the fodder, to be fully satisfactory. Kolář evaluated the present status in the suppression of gastroenterohelminths in wild ruminants by means of Thibenzol or Mebendazol and directed attention to the necessity of studying fascioloidosis, because this parasitosis, according to the data obtained by the State veterinary institute for game animals in Jihlava, starts to be occurring even in places where its occurrence has been hitherto unknown.

The first "Rašín days" were successful and let us hope that subsequent meetings of parasitologists on the same occasion will be as successful and profitable.

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