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Received 1 April 1974.

T.N.D., The Gamaleya Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, Moscow, USSR

FOLIA PARASITOLOGICA (PRAHA) 22: 161, 1975.

The 50th birthday of Associate Professor PhMr Jaroslav Vošta C.Sc.

On December 24, 1974, Associate Professor PhMr Jaroslav Vošta, C.Sc. celebrated his 50th birthday. Dr. Vošta is Head of the Department of Microbiology, Chair of Biology, Faculty of Economy, Agricultural College, České Budějovice. He was born in Tábor, southern Bohemia where he went to primary and secondary school. In March 1943, shortly before the end of his last secondary school term, he was prosecuted by the Nazis together with his schoolmates and other young Czech patriots and sent to Nazi Germany for forced labour. For his uncompromising, antinazi attitude he soon became an active member of the illegal antinazi movement and, on these grounds, was arrested in 1944 and imprisoned at the concentration camp of Dachau, where he remained until the end of the war. After the liberation of Czechoslovakia and soon after his return home, he started his practical training in pharmacology at a dispensary and, in 1947, after finishing his practice, he started to study pharmacology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Charles University, Prague. He graduated in 1949 and was employed at the District Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology, České Budějovice. After passing a post-graduate course in parasitology in Prague, he was made Head of this Department. His profound interest in parasitology brought Dr. Vošta in close contact with academician O. Jírovec, under whose leadership he worked on his PhD thesis; in 1959, he was awarded the scientific degree of Candidate of Biological Sciences (PhD). In 1964, he joined the Agricultural College in České Budějovice, where, a year

later, he was named Associate Professor in the field of microbiology. His particular interest in leptospirosis dates back to his work on the PhD thesis, when he studied the natural foci and reservoirs of this infection in the Tábor district. He has remained faithful to this field of research up to the present. He has added to his studies those on problems concerned with the diagnosis of leptospirosis in the laboratory, the effect of Leptospirae on tissue culture, and a number of other questions. Many of his papers deal with intestinal parasites recorded from collectives of children, and the therapy of helminthic and protozoan infection of man. In recent years, he has added to his extensive research activities studies on problems of cattle leptospirosis designed mainly to the purpose of finding effective control measures against this economically important zoonosis. His academic activities have greatly been acknowledged, his list of publications comprises more than 60 papers in Czechoslovak and foreign periodicals.

Dr. Vošta is liked by his collaborators and by everybody coming into contact with him for his kind and modest nature, and for his readiness to help, where help is required. He is extremely fond of nature, loves Tábor, his home town and southern Bohemia, but mainly his work and people.

We congratulate Dr. Vošta on the occasion of his 50th birthday, wishing him sound health, personal happiness, success in his work, and to keep up his unconquerable, optimistic outlook on life.

Dr. Z. Šebek C.Sc.