

To the fiftieth birthday of Prof. Gustáv Čatár, M.D., D.Sc.

Prof. Gustáv Čatár, M.D., D.Sc., belongs to the prominent European specialists in the research of toxoplasmosis. He was born on July 4, 1927 at the village Gaboltov in Slovakia. After passing his school-leaving examination in 1947, he studied at the Medical Faculty of the Comenius University in Bratislava, from which he graduated in 1952. He started his post-gradual training in parasitology under the guidance of Prof. O. Jírovec in Prague and in 1960 submitted his thesis for the Candidate of medical sciences degree, entitled "A contribution to some problems of toxoplasmosis under conditions in Slovakia". In 1962 he qualified as Associate Professor in medical parasitology and became Full Professor in this field in 1969. In 1973 he received the degree of Doctor of medical sciences.

Čatár's scientific interest is focused both on the research of toxoplasmosis and in the studies of other problems of medical parasitology. Apart from numerous scientific treatises and professional papers he released two monographs, entitled: "To the problem of toxoplasmosis in Slovakia" (1961) and "Toxoplasmosis under ecological conditions of Slovakia" (1974). Both were published by "Veda", the Publishing house of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Apart from clinical studies, Čatár was engaged in the studies on ecological problems of epidemiology and epizootiology of toxoplasmosis, primarily the analysis of animal reservoirs in natural foci of this disease. He obtained a wide knowledge on the prevalence of toxoplasmosis in the territory of Slovakia, on the dynamics of the natural focus of toxoplasmosis and pointed out the high prevalence of this infection in some farm animals (cattle, rabbits) and game animals (roe deer, wild boar).

Čatár's laboratories today represent a research centre of immunological diagnosis of toxoplasmosis from all over the Slovak territory. This research not only yields standard results in preventive medical treatment, but also facilitates, in collaboration with a wide range of clinicians, to obtain knowledge on the clinical picture of both acquired and congenital toxoplasmosis.

C. Čatár has also been concerned with the therapy and epidemiology of trichomoniasis, with pneumocystosis and tissue protozoa in micromammals. In helminthology he paid attention to problems of specificity of the genus

Trichuris in man and pig and described a case of autochthonous bothrioccephaliasis.

A great credit is due to Prof. Čatár in the field of pedagogical activities. He was the organizer of the Institute of Parasitology of the Comenius University Medical Faculty in Bratislava. It is the only independent parasitological research place within Medical faculty in Czechoslovakia and Čatár is the only Professor in medical parasitology. This research centre yielded a number of dissertation papers dealing with medical parasitology.

It is incredible how much beneficial work can be concentrated in one man. Prof. Čatár holds a number of public posts profitable to recipients of university education and public health services. Since 1969 he has been serving as Dean of the Comenius University Medical Faculty in Bratislava. He is vice-chairman of the Slovak Biological Society, committee member of the Czechoslovak Parasitological Society, presidium member of the Academic Council of the Ministry of Health in the Slovak Socialist Republic, member of the Scientific Board of Medical Sciences and Scientific Board of Biology and Medicine at Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. He is chairman of the Academic council of the Comenius University Medical Faculty in Bratislava, member of the academic councils of Medical Faculty in Martin and of the Institute for the post-gradual training of physicians and pharmacists in Bratislava. He is also member of editorial boards of several scientific journals.

For his pioneer work in the field of toxoplasmosis he was awarded the National Prize of the Slovak Socialist Republic in 1976.

Prof. Čatár attended many important international parasitological congresses and symposia, for short and long periods worked in parasitological research centres of both the moderate zone and the tropical regions. In 1974 he acted as president of the Symposium on toxoplasmosis with international participation in Bratislava which attracted great attention and was attended by outstanding world specialists. Prof. Čatár is a leading representative of Czechoslovak parasitology. All concerned, both in his home country and abroad, appreciate him as a modest, wise and kind-hearted man, who is always ready to help and advise anyone who needs it. We wish him good health and many successes in the coming years.

Prof. Dr. B. Rosický, D.Sc.
and Dr. J. Jíra, C.Sc.