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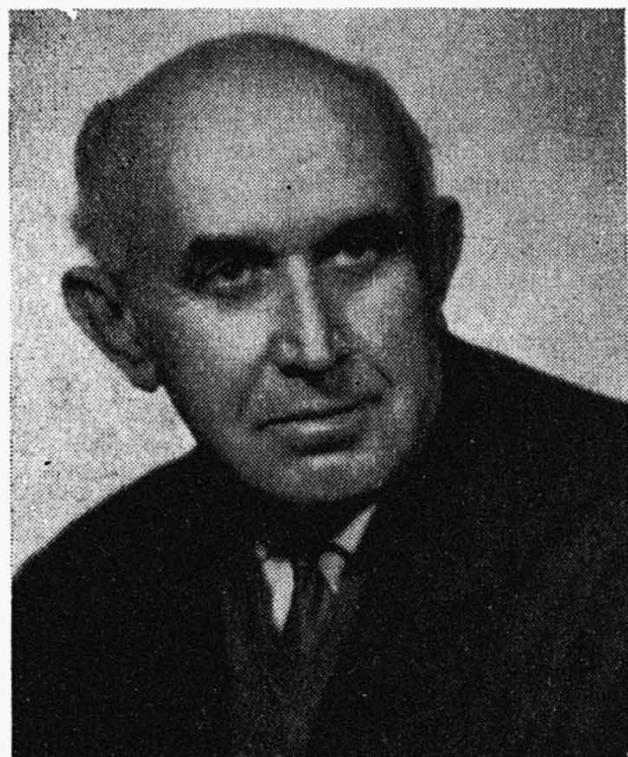
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Professor RNDr. Jaroslav Kramář, D.Sc. is seventy



11 April 1980 marks the 70th birthday of the leading Czechoslovak parasitologist, Professor RNDr. Jaroslav Kramář, D.Sc. He was born 11 April 1910 at Velké Hamry in the family of a weaver. He spent his childhood in his native Jizerské Mts. where his deep interest in natural sciences, mainly biology, began to form under the influence of the beautiful, then intact nature surrounding him. This interest led the young Kramář to attend the teacher's college in Jičín where he studied not only biology, but also chemistry, physics and mathematics included in

the curriculum. This wide basis of knowledge proved a great help in his later studies and mainly in his work of developing new biological techniques. As a young teacher he was employed in Prague where he enrolled at the Faculty of Sciences, Charles University, studying natural history and geography in order to qualify as secondary school teacher. However, he had to interrupt his studies because all universities were closed by the Nazi occupants in 1939. He completed his studies after the liberation of Czechoslovakia and graduated in zoology with the degree of RNDr (approximate equivalent of Master of Science) in 1948. He became teaching assistant at the Zoology Institute of the Pedagogical Faculty, Charles University and in 1951 transferred to the Parasitology department of the Natural Faculty as assistant lecturer. In 1954 he qualified as Associate Professor, in 1957 received his Candidate of Sciences degree (equivalent to PhD), in 1963 was appointed Professor of parasitology and in 1966 presented his thesis for the award of Doctor of Sciences (D.Sc.) degree. From 1953 to 1976 he headed the Department of parasitology and hydrobiology, Faculty of Sciences, Charles University in Prague and retired in 1978. While at the Faculty of Sciences he also held other important positions such as the office of Vice-Dean of the Faculty.

The brief outline of his biography, however, cannot fully characterize the rich and active life of a personality such as Professor Kramář. He is primarily a teacher, who has served at all levels of Czechoslovak school system, from primary school to university. During his teacher's career he gained wide experience which made it possible for him to be always on best terms

with his pupils and to establish close contacts with them, creating an atmosphere of good collaboration. As university tutor he always readily shared his teaching experience with his younger colleagues to whom he became a paragon. For his long-lasting teaching activities and primarily the outstanding results achieved he was awarded the title of "Honoured Teacher" in 1978.

Since the very beginning Professor Kramář's professional activities were focused on entomology. Already as a young student at the Teacher's College he became member of the Czechoslovak Entomological Society in 1926, where he made many friends and met a number of outstanding teachers who later exerted a strong influence on his scientific work. Most of his time was and still is devoted to the study of mosquito problems. The results obtained in the research of this insect group have placed Professor Kramář in the ranks of leading world specialists. His monograph on the mosquito fauna of Czechoslovakia has received a high appraisal both in his native country and abroad. However, from time to time he was also actively interested in many other problems, e.g. in the study of parasitic protozoans, mainly insect gregarines, or in some problems of histology and anatomy etc. His outstanding ability and energy was always devoted to technical field as well, promoting the development of a number of preparation or staining techniques and other methods. Since the sixties Professor Kramář has been intensively concerned with the problems of immunofluorescence. In this field he is undoubtedly a leading pioneer in Czechoslovakia. Despite difficult conditions, lacking appropriate technical equipment, he developed an application of

immunofluorescence method for the diagnosis of toxoplasmosis and subsequently of other parasitic diseases. His method is now currently used in the public health service.

The publication activity of Professor Kramář is considerable. It represents about 100 titles, including also text-books and manuals, and last but not least the work "Parasitology for physicians", which was re-edited and expanded under his guidance in co-authorship with others after the death of the first author, Professor O. Jírovec. This book was acclaimed as the best publication of the Avicenum Publishing House in 1978.

The activities of Professor Kramář never remained within the professional and teaching limits. For many years he served as President of the Czechoslovak Parasitological Society and at present he is its Vice-President. He is actively involved in the organization of the state plan for basic research, closely collaborates with the Scientific Board of Biology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, is a member of many other professional boards sitting in the Hygiene-Epidemiology Service etc. For these public, organizational and advisory activities he was awarded the G. Mendel gold medal on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

It is difficult to encompass in a brief article the great and creditable work of Professor Kramář. It is only possible to acknowledge his credits by our sincere thanks to the man who has devoted his entire life to the advancement of Czechoslovak biology and parasitology.

The Czechoslovak parasitologists wish Professor Kramář good health, much happiness and further success in his work in the coming years.

Prof. Dr. B. Ryšavý, D.Sc.