

70th anniversary of Kamil Kučera, M.D., D.Sc.

Dr. K. Kučera was born 25 December 1910 in the village Ráječek near Zábřeh in North Moravia. He completed his secondary school studies in Brno in 1930 and studied medicine at the Medical Faculty in Brno in 1930—1936. During his national service in the army he passed a special state examination which later on qualified him for his work in hygiene and epidemiology. At that time he worked without pay at the Microbiological Institute of the Medical Faculty as assistant of Professor V. Tomášek. At the beginning of 1939 he took the post of the deputy head of the Central Laboratory and Pathology Department of the hospital in Zlín (now Gottwaldov) where he became head physician in 1946. Here he also founded respective stations for blood transfusion, parasitology, antibiotics and a branch of the Public Health Institute. Later he helped establish the Regional Hygiene and Epidemiology Station and became head of one of its departments. While organizing the public health services in the region he also published a number of papers from that line. He taught at schools and in courses for lower grade public health workers and lectured plastic surgery at the School of Applied Arts in Gottwaldov. After 1945 he devoted most of his time and energy to public educational activities.

In March 1948, after presenting his dissertation on vaginal trichomoniasis, he qualified as Associate Professor in microbiology at the Medical Faculty in Brno. Shortly afterwards he was appointed head of the Microbiology and Pathological Anatomy departments at the newly established Medical Faculty in Olomouc. For medical students he prepared textbooks of general and special microbiology which were published in Olomouc.

At the request of Academician O. Jírovec in 1956 K. Kučera transferred to the Protozoology Laboratory of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences which fused with the newly established Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague in 1962. He reti-



red in the spring 1976. For twenty years he had been active as lecturer at the Natural Sciences Faculty of the Charles University, reading lectures on pathology, epidemiology, infectious diseases and professional hygiene to students specializing in parasitology.

K. Kučera's scientific activities may be divided into three topical ranges. In the first one he dealt with the problems of bacteriology, virology and immunology. His papers on the effects of chloroamine, on typhus, actinomycosis, diagnostics of diphtheria and on Koch—Weeks conjunctivitis belong to this category. He was also concerned with problems of blood transfusion and was actively interested in autovaccinotherapy, obtaining good results in chronic inflammatory afflictions. He studied adiaspiromycosis in free-living animals and with co-workers participated in the diagnosis of a rare, exceptional case of human adiaspiromycosis in vivo.

The second topical range includes K. Kučera's studies in medical parasitology, in which he became interested due to his collaboration with Professor Jírovec. His papers on intestinal parasites, balantidiasis and leishmaniasis date from this period of his studies. A series of papers on vaginal trichomoniasis served as a basis for his report presented at the international symposium in Reims in 1957, in which he discussed epidemiological connections of urogenital trichomoniasis and the necessity of recognizing it as a venereal disease. In his paper on the micro-formation called *Sergentella spiroides*, K. Kučera proved that this was the question of contaminated material by spiral conidia of helicosporous fungi being spread by air route from wood and did not apply to a pathogenic parasite.

The third topical range includes problems of pneumocystosis solved by K. Kučera in the period between 1952 and 1975. A series of papers dealing with morphology, pathology, clinic and epidemiology served as a basis for his 5-volume monograph presented as his doctoral dissertation, in which he compiled material unique in the world literature. An emphasis is laid on the opportunistic character of this infection and proofs are presented about the epidemiological connections between human and animal pneumocystosis.

K. Kučera published as sole author or co-author, or presented otherwise 117 papers and 48 popular articles. He belongs to the generation of architects of the Czechoslovak medical microbiology. Likewise, his papers dealing with medical parasitology are considered to be original. The type of Central Laboratory with pathology department which he organized within a large hospital unit, belonged at one time to the model public health facilities in this country.

Dr. Kučera is known to be a kind-hearted man and experienced physician sought out as an advisor and friend, be it in illness or crucial moments of life. He is a personality with a deep ethic and human approach, with a highly refined taste. Marking his 70th anniversary we wish him good health and much happiness in the coming years.

Dr. J. Jíra, C.Sc.