

In memoriam of Prof. Dr. N. P. Shikhobalova

Prof. Dr. N. P. Shikhobalova, the outstanding representant of the Soviet helminthological school and closest collaborator and first pupil of Academician K. I. Skryabin, died on 3rd March 1981.

She was born in Kuibyshev (1897) where she passed the secondary school (1915) and Medical

Faculty of the Samar State University (1926). In 1927, she started her scientific and pedagogical activities under the guidance of Academician K. I. Skryabin in Moscow. During her long and fruitful life N. P. Shikhobalova reached excellent results in many institutes and institutions. In the years 1927—1928 at the Helminthologi-

cal Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR (now VIGIS), later (1928—1933) in a special helminthological laboratory for the research of anthelmintics. At that time she was particularly engaged in the studies of the drug Santonin which was widely used in the Soviet medical practice. In 1933, N. P. Shikhobalova passed to the Institute for the Research of Malaria, Medical Parasitology and Helminthology of the Ministry of Health of the USSR (now E. I. Martsinovsky Institute of Medical Parasitology and Tropical Medicine) where she headed



a specialized immunological laboratory. Here she studied the helminthoses of man, their epizootology and experimental therapy and widely developed the research of the immunity during helminthoses. In addition to the extensive work in the laboratory she worked also in the field. She participated in ten All-Union Helminthological Expeditions investigating the helminth fauna of man and domestic animals in various regions of the USSR (e.g., West Siberia, Far East, republics of Transcaucasia and Middle Asia). At that time N. P. Shikhobalova also acted as teacher at the Institute for Postgraduate Studies of Medicine.

In 1942, Academician K. I. Skryabin founded the Helminthological Laboratory of the USSR

Academy of Sciences and in 1944 N. P. Shikhobalova obtained the post of the vice-director of this prominent scientific institution. She started to carry out complex investigations of the morphology, systematics and phylogeny of nematodes, mainly of the suborders Filariata, Oxyurata, Trichocephalata and Strongylata. She greatly contributed to the series of monographs "Osnovy nematodologii" (Principles of nematology) and "Opredelitel paraziticheskikh nematod" (Key to parasitic nematodes). In 1948, N. P. Shikhobalova was awarded the D.Sc. degree on the basis of her thesis entitled "Trichocephalosis of man (epidemiology and immunity)". In 1953, she was appointed Professor of Helminthology at the Moscow State University. Her monograph "Voprosy imuniteta pri gelminthozakh" (Questions of immunity during helminthoses) (1950), which was the first book in the world helminthological literature dealing with this topic, received a great international acceptance. In the following years, Professor Shikhobalova studied the effect of ionizing radiation on the eggs and larvae of helminths. The results obtained not only were of theoretical importance, but they were also used in the practice. N. P. Shikhobalova published 150 original papers and 18 monographs of a great theoretical and practical value.

The organizational activities of N. P. Shikhobalova were also very extensive. For many years she served as vice-president of the All-Union Helminthological Society of the USSR Academy of Sciences, member of scientific boards of many institutes and institutions, and member of many editorial boards of scientific journals. She acted for a long time as a deputy of the Moscow Town Board of Workers and always actively participated in the public political life. She was awarded numerous awards, state honours and orders, as "Work Order of the Red Flag", "Honour Distinction", Bulgarian "First Grade Order of Cyril and Method" etc.

The person and work of Prof. Dr. N. P. Shikhobalova expressed her great scientific expertness, diligence and talent, authority and sensible relations to her co-workers and pupils. She was a prominent personality in both Soviet and world helminthology. Her friends and colleagues in her native country and in abroad will never forget her.

Academician V. Baruš and

Academician B. Ryšavý