

IN MEMORIAM BORIS KONSTANTINOVICH FENYUK

Soviet biology suffered a great loss on July 22, 1969. On that date Prof. Boris Konstantinovich Fenyuk, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Honoured Scientist of the RSFSR, State Prize laureate passed away. He was a charming man, talented scientist, outstanding organizer of scientific research, universally recognized leader in medical zoology.

The career of B. K. Fenyuk was typical for the generation of scientists whose creative abilities had been developing along with the formation and development of science in the young Soviet state. After graduating from the Saratov University in 1926, he began his professional career as an Instructor in the Laboratory Department for Application of Toxic Substances, the RSFSR People's Commissariat of Agriculture, engaged in studies on agricultural pests control. Between 1927 and 1930, while still working at the Laboratory, he completed his post-graduate studies at the Zoology Department of the Saratov University, where his entire academic tenure was passed. He advanced to Assistant Rector of the University and was Head of the Vertebrate Zoology Department. Since 1933 he was concurrently Head of the Zoology Department at the Institute "Microbe", where he mainly worked until his death. Between 1964 and 1967 he held the office of Assistant Director of the Institute.

From the very beginning of his scientific activities B. K. Fenyuk was attracted by ecology of rodents. His papers devoted to jerboa remain to be the best works on this group of animals, and his surveys on the influence of different forms of economic activities upon the way of life and numbers of rodents may serve as models of similar investigations. Especially praiseworthy are his efforts for the development of studies on natural focality of diseases. A series

of papers collected under the title "Ecological factors of natural focality and epizootiology of plague in rodents" is a basic work which considerably influenced further development of Soviet medical zoology. These papers deal with the main and secondary carriers of infection in natural foci and set up the tactics, methods and forms of rodent control with the purpose of preventing human diseases. He was the first to point out the necessity of dividing the geographic range of the pathogenous agent of plague into individual, relatively autonomous natural foci, separated by ecological or geographic barriers.

B. K. Fenyuk was a brilliant lecturer who devoted much time to pedagogical activities. His experience was extremely broad and his disciples are now specialists in invertebrate zoology, parasitology, microbiology and epidemiology. Much of his time was also devoted to scientific-organizational work. He served as member of organizing committees of many All-Union conferences and meetings on plague, ecology, zoogeography etc., as member of the Commission on Natural Foci of Diseases of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, as plague expert at the World Health Organization etc. The wide range of his activities as editor can be traced with difficulty. He was editor of the well known series of volumes, entitled "Rodents and Rodent Control", of numerous publications issued by Anti-Plague institutes, stations and of conference proceedings.

A remarkable and original researcher, outstanding organizer and propagator of scientific ideas, a superb colleague and witty companion, B. K. Fenyuk will always be remembered by all who were fortunate to have known him.

Prof. V. V. Kucheruk, D.Sc.