

## The 60th anniversary of Professor B. E. Kurashvili

In January 1972, the renowned Soviet parasitologist, Professor Boris Epifanovich Kurashvili, celebrated a double anniversary, his 60th birthday and 35 years of scientific work.

Professor Kurashvili is a pupil of Academician K. I. Skryabin, the founder of the most important helminthological school. His work covers a wide spectrum of helminthological problems including questions of the helminth fauna, the distribution of fascioliasis, dicrocoeliasis, echinococcosis and trichinellosis in the Georgian S.S.R. and, recently, problems on the effect of helminths on the organism of their hosts and host specificity of the helminths. He has published more than 80 original papers and several monographs of which, as regards the faunistic and ecological aspects, the most important is the monograph on the helminths of game birds from Georgia.

Professor Kurashvili, Director of the Zoological Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Georgian S.S.R., and founder of its Parasitological Laboratory, is an extremely capable organiser of scientific work as is reflected in the organisation of extensive research activities on invertebrates and vertebrates of Georgia. Recently, his interest has been focused on the protection of nature and on the external environment. He initiated the setting up of several field stations in order to study the ecology of aquatic and terrestrial animals. Professor Kurashvili is one of the founders of the Helminthological Society of the Georgian S.S.R., and, at present, its chairman.

Among the numerous activities of Professor Kurashvili it is impossible not to mention the

importance of his academic activities. As Professor of zoology at the Tbilisi university, he has lectured on invertebrates for many years and has educated a number of well-known Georgian zoologists. His activities, however, are not limited to strictly scientific fields.

Professor Kurashvili has greatly contributed to the popularisation of the results of scientific work in organising numerous campaigns throughout Georgia to inform the inhabitant of this beautiful spot of the Earth about the most recent results of scientific work not only in biology, but also in other scientific fields. He is actively engaged in public work and is member of the Tbilisi Council representing the working people. For his great merits in the development and popularisation of science he has been awarded two prizes and several medals. Professor Kurashvili is not only an outstanding scientist but, in the first place, an outstanding person. His reputation as "tamada"—toastmaster—has never been surpassed either at home or abroad and all his friends will remember the unforgettable friendly meetings organised by Professor Kurashvili in true Georgian fashion. His remarkable sense of humour and his open, friendly manner has won many friends all over the world and also in our country, Czechoslovakia. Therefore, all Czechoslovak parasitologists wish to express to Professor Kurashvili their best wishes for good health and many successes in the years to come.

*Dr. B. Ryšavý D Sc.*