

## Obituary dr. Nándor Zoltai

On 15 February 1972 a great loss has befallen human parasitology, the Hungarian public health service and the State Institute of Hygiene by the death of Dr. Nándor Zoltai, chief of the Institute's Section of Immunology and Parasitology and senior university lecturer. Shortly after having obtained his medical diploma he started his work in the service of public health, and from that time onwards his life became inseparably attached to the field of parasitology for over 30 years. His excellent skill in organizing field work resulted in the fact that Hungary became free of malaria. He organized a network of parasito-



logical laboratories in Public Health Stations and initiated systematic control measures against parasitoses in Hungary. He was an inspired tutor and his scientific interest covered all three branches of parasitology, but

protozoology was perhaps nearest to his heart. He obtained his scientific degree for his work in the field of amoebiasis. In the last years of his life he devoted his investigations to toxoplasmosis, an infection that still involves several unsolved problems.

Besides his scientific papers and books, his lectures delivered at home and abroad have made his name well-known. He was a member of the WHO Expert Committee for Malaria and also on the board of several scientific organizations. Before his illness he was an enthusiastic organizer of and participant in every action by which he believed human parasitology would gain. Untiring in his work he never ceased to challenge new problems. His ardent endeavour for solving them was perhaps due to subconscious anticipation of a relatively short span of life in which he had to fulfil all tasks which would normally occupy a much longer career.

Professionally prominent he was a man of sober taste, exemplary modesty and full of human sympathy. Everybody is worth as much in his life as much he will be missed after his decease. Dr. Zoltai did leave a profound gap not only in the heart of his family but also in those of his friends and colleagues. The staff of his department lost both their chief and a fatherly friend who regarded his place of work as his second home and his coworkers as the members of a second family.

Dr. Zoltai's life of 60 years, mostly devoted to work, not free from struggles but abounding in success, has left an indelible mark on parasitology. His work has become a long-lasting memorial revered by all parasitologists who will cherish his spiritual heritage.

*Dr. M. Jankó*