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## Konstantin Ivanovich Skryabin

Academician K. I. Skryabin, one of the foremost helminthologists of the world, founder of the Soviet school of helminthology, and of helminthology as a science, died on October 17, 1972, at the age of 94 years. Soviet science and biological sciences throughout the world have suffered a great loss from his departure.

K. I. Skryabin was born on December 7, 1878 in Petrograd to the family of a transport engineer. After leaving secondary school, he entered the Veterinary College at Yuriev and, upon graduation, worked as a veterinarian in Central Asia. In these neglected parts of the Czarist Turkestan, K. I. Skryabin found heavy infections with parasitic worms in all domestic animals. He assembled an extensive collection of worms, which he took to Petrograd for identification. At that time, however, there was no expert in helminthology in Czarist Russia who would have been capable of identifying these worms. This fact instigated Skryabin's study on parasitic worms and his attempts of finding effective measures for their control. His basic sphere of scientific activities was the development of helminthological research in the Soviet Union, and the application of the results to the veterinary and medical practice. All his time was devoted to research work on helminths, and to the control of infections, caused by them, in man, animals and plants. With his collection of worms from Central Asia he went to Western Europe. There, he worked at various laboratories under the guidance of renowned helminthologists, e.g., Bermann,



Fuhrmann, etc., who helped him in identifying the worms.

In 1920, he returned to Moscow and, within a considerably short time organized three institutions, i.e., the "Helminthological Department" State Veterinary Institute, renamed later "Vsesoyuzniy Institut Gelmintologii imeni Skryabina (VIGIS)"; the "Helminthological Department" Moscow Tropical Institute, and the "Helminthological Cabinet", Physico-Mathematical Faculty, Moscow State University. In