

The 75th anniversary of MVDr. Karel Rašín



MVDr. Karel Rašín was 75 on November 18, 1973. He was born at Ústí nad Orlicí and is still most active, being emeritus assistant of the Parasitological Department, Veterinary College, Brno, Head of the Research Veterinary Laboratory at Drnovská near Vyškov; for many years he was Director of Bioveta at Ivanovice na Hané.

MVDr. Rašín, the founder of the Czechoslovak ichthyopathology, has published pioneering work particularly on ichthyoparasitology solving a number of life cycles of acanthocephalans and trematodes. His monograph "*Echinoparyphium recurvatum*" published in 1933 is nowadays considered as a classical study and has lost nothing of its importance as shown by the high esteem bestowed upon it by Academician K. I. Skryabin and doc. Dr. K. Odöning 20 years after it had first been published. His experimental experience and skill is supported by his masterly command of microscopic techniques and micro-

photographs, and their utilization in complex studies on parasites. Dr. Rašín has never failed in observing all ecological factors involved, and ranges among the first followers of J. N. Pavlovsky's theory on natural disease foci and its application.

Dr. Rašín was one of the first Czechoslovak veterinary parasitologists to work in various field stations in the USSR (Volga station at the former Saratov), and one of the first to introduce the method of complete helminthological section suggested by Skryabin to his own laboratory (45 years ago). By conducting all his studies simultaneously in the field and the laboratory, his results were conclusive and, in this way, he contributed to a more vigorous development in this field of sciences.

A fundamental contribution to the knowledge on diseases transmitted from animals to man, is Rašín's discovery of toxoplasmosis in the hare (*Věstník Čs. zoolog. spol.* 12: 157--179, 1948). Another valuable study is his survey of tularemia in Czechoslovakia.

From the very beginning, Rašín has postulated the great importance of close cooperation with specialists from the USSR, a deep and comprehensive approach of the research problem under consideration; the idea of helping the practice with the results of his studies has been at the background of all his work. And this, he has proved by his 35 years of activity at Bioveta for which he has been awarded two state prizes, in 1958 and 1961.

All who know Dr. Rašín will welcome the fact that, after the many years of organizing the production of vaccines, he is returning to active experimental work and solving with his collaborators the problem of toxoplasmosis-isosporosis, which is of exceptional importance from the health-, epizootological and hygienic point of view.

All Czechoslovak parasitologists are grateful to MVDr. Rašín for his pioneering work and wish him good health and many years of active work to follow.

Prof. Dr. Václav Dyk, D.Sc.