

The 60th anniversary of Academician Ján Hovorka



Professor MVDr. Ján Hovorka D.Sc., member of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Corresponding Member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Director of the Institute of Helminthology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Košice, celebrates his 60th anniversary on February 9, 1974. Professor Hovorka is one of the foremost Czechoslovak parasitologists, who has devoted his whole life to the development of helminthology. After his secondary school education at Zvolen, he studied veterinary medicine at the Veterinary College in Brno. Upon graduation, he worked for several years as a military veterinarian. Immediately after World War 2 he went to Košice as one of the first organisers of the Agricultural College with a Veterinary faculty attached to it, which was later established as an independent Veterinary College. He was named Professor of parasitology, and elected as the first Chancellor of this College (from 1949–1952). In the early fifties, Professor Hovorka participated in the organisation of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. In 1953, he became Director of the newly founded Helminthological Laboratory, later the Institute of Helminthology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Košice.

There is no doubt that the visit of the renowned helminthologist Academician K.I. Skrjabin, to Czechoslovakia in 1953, greatly influenced Professor Hovorka's scientific profile. The close contacts established between the two scientists were a great stimulus to the develop-

ment of helminthological work at Košice, and the fundamental concept of work laid down at this time by Professor Hovorka as Head of the Helminthological Laboratory, is still being followed up by the Institute of Helminthology.

Academician Hovorka, although trained as a veterinarian, conceived correctly the importance of close contacts between theoretical research work and the practice. This is reflected in his various fields of work on, e.g., the fauna, systematics, immunology, pharmacology, etc., which all have their counterpart in fundamental work on the epizootiology of helminths (his book "Invázný cyklus helminthos" was awarded the State prize of Klement Gottwald in 1969), on the treatment of helminthiasis, and in the pioneering work on the diagnosis of helminthiasis.

When evaluating the activities of Professor Hovorka, it is impossible not to mention his curricular work. He is Head of the Department of Parasitology, Veterinary College, Košice, and much of his time has been devoted to the training of students. A number of his trainees have become well-known specialists, and also many foreign students have profited greatly from Professor Hovorka's lectures. In recent years he has supervised the training of post-graduate students from various countries, mainly Cuba.

Professor Hovorka's organizing ability is one of his virtues deserving special mention. It is reflected in his function as Director of the Institute of Helminthology at Košice, in his work as Chairman of the Scientific Colloquium of Special Biology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Deputy-Chairman of the Scientific Colloquium of Special Biology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Chairman of the Council of the 6th programme of fundamental research in Czechoslovakia, Member of numerous committees of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Chief Editor of the yearbook *Helminthologia*, member of the editorial board of *Folia parasitologica* and of various other journals, etc. His activities as a scientist and organiser of science have been estimated very highly at home and abroad, and he was awarded a number of state orders. He is an Honorary Member of the All Union Helminthological Society of the U.S.S.R.

When celebrating his 60th anniversary, all members of the editorial board of *Folia parasitologica*, and all Czechoslovak parasitologists wish Academician Hovorka good health and further successes in his work and life.

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