

70th birthday of Academician V. S. Yershov

On July 28, 1974 Academician Vladimir Stepanovich Yershov, Member of the All-Union Academy of Agriculture (VASKHNIL), Director of the All-Union Institute of Helminthology in Moscow, Honoured Scientist of RSFSR, Doctor of veterinary science, celebrated his 70th birthday in good health and full activity.

He was born in 1904 in the village of Suslovo, Briansk Oblast. After leaving the basic education school in 1915 he continued his studies at the grammar school in Karachevo and at the Veterinary Institute in Leningrad (1921—1925). After graduation he was employed as veterinary surgeon in the Vyatka province until 1930. During his practice he collected a large number of helminths from domestic and wild animals in the Vyatka province and under the direct guidance of Academician K. I. Skryabin, the founder of the Soviet helminthological school, started working on this material.

Since 1927 the professional creative activities of V. S. Yershov have been closely associated with the All-Union Institute of Helminthology in Moscow. Although he worked as head of the laboratory of Central-Asiatic Research Veterinary Station (1930—1932) and later as head of the Parasitology Department of the Agricultural Institute in Kirov (1932—1945), he often visited the Skryabin Institute in Moscow where he conducted an extensive research. Since 1945 he has been working at this Institute both as scientist and administrator.

Academician V. S. Yershov wrote a number of original scientific treatises devoted to morphology, systematics and biology of helminths parasitizing domestic animals and man. He greatly contributed to the development of epizootology, diagnostic methods and therapy of helminthoses of domestic animals in the U.S.S.R. In the past twenty years together with his co-workers he had been successfully studying the theoretical and practical problems of immunity with helminthoses and notable are his studies on allergy. The results of his creative professional work were published in more than 170 original papers which appeared in Soviet and foreign scientific journals.

The monographs concerned with veterinary parasitology such as "Helminthoses of Horses" (1933), "Helminthoses of Domestic Animals" (1934), "Helminthoses of Pigs" (1963) written by Academician Yershov and co-authors achieved international response and high appreci-

ation. Some of his monographs were translated into many foreign languages (English, Chinese, Bulgarian, Mongolian, Lithuanian, Estonian and Armenian).

He participated in many international scientific meetings, such as the conferences, congresses and symposia held in Stockholm, Madrid, Hannover, Paris, Rome, Rennes, London, Glasgow, Warsaw, Budapest. In Czechoslovakia he took part in two international helminthological symposia (1965, 1970) and paid several visits to research centres of both Czechoslovak and Slovak Academies of Sciences as well as to veterinary institutes and colleges.

The outstanding pedagogical activities of Academician V. S. Yershov which he started as 1932 as head of the Parasitology Department and deputy director for scientific and pedagogical work at the Veterinary Institute in Kirov, cannot be overlooked either. After moving to Moscow he gave lectures for post-graduate students of veterinary medicine and was active as head of the Parasitology Department at the Veterinary Institute in Moscow. He trained many scientific workers and under his tutelage as many as 40 attained highest scientific degrees.

From 1945 to 1954 he was head of the laboratory of the All-Union Institute of Helminthology in Moscow and since 1957 he has been its director. With great enthusiasm he has been contributing to further advancement in the activities of this research centre, particularly in new trends of studies on theoretical and experimental veterinary helminthology. His activities in the All-Union Society of Helminthologists (VOG) is also very important; in the past thirty years he held the post of scientific secretary, first vice-president and at present he is the President of the Society. He also serves on many committees such as the committee of Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, All-Union Academy of Agriculture and other government and scientific organizations and institutions. His initiative, energy and enthusiasm devoted to the advancement of science are immense.

We highly appreciate Academician V. S. Yershov's assistance offered to Czechoslovak parasitology and on behalf of all Czechoslovak parasitologists congratulate him in his significant anniversary, with best wishes for a long and creative life.

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