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László Pellérdy (11. 11. 1907—6. 9. 1974)

By the tragic death of László Pellérdy on September 1974 the world parasitology has suffered a great loss. He was an eminent parasitologist-protozoologist, indefatigable organizer of his chosen field of science, a well-known coccidiologist.

L. Pellérdy got involved in parasitology soon after he had graduated from the Veterinary College in Budapest in 1929, when he went to work under A. Kotlán in the parasitological laboratory, which later became the Department of General Zoology and Parasitology of the College.

His participation in the studies on coccidia carried out at this Department determined his scientific interests for life. However, the assistant's post he held at that time did not provide a solid basis for family subsistence and therefore the young specialist transferred to a governmental post, becoming a district veterinarian.

Pellérdy's dream of devoting all his energy to research work came true as late as 1949, after the liberation of his country, when he went to work as a parasitologist in the State Veterinary Institute and two years later in the Research Veterinary Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He acted as head of the parasitological department and later as deputy director of the Institute until his retirement in 1973.

L. Pellérdy devoted 33 years of his life (except a brief interval) to the advancement of parasitology. His practice in veterinary service was reflected in his scientific activities. In solving the problems of coccidiosis in farm animals he always took in consideration the requirements of practice. While characterizing his scientific activities it may be said that Pellérdy developed an applied coccidiology. The themes of his 150 papers and 5 books were ethiology, pathogenesis, therapy and control of coccidiosis of farm animals. The greatest achievement of his scientific activities is his fine monograph „Coccidia and coccidiosis“, which appeared in two English editions.

L. Pellérdy's activities soon attracted the attention of scientific institutions and organizations abroad. He was a frequent active participant in international conferences, congresses, was invited to read lectures and conferred honorary membership by many organizations (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Parasitologie; The Academy of Zoology Agra; Folia parasitologica (Praha)).

L. Pellérdy's death left an enormous void in the ranks of the Society of Hungarian Parasitologists. A tireless member of its board he placed all his talents at the service of the Society and propagation of its ideas.

Prof. Dr. T. Kobulej