

CHRONICLE

1983

PERSONALIA

Jubilee

On November 20, 1983, DR. AMBRUS ÁBRAHÁM, academician, Kossuth Prize winner, emeritus Professor and Director of the Department of Zoology, celebrated his 90. birthday. He was awarded the Standard Order of the Hungarian People's Republic by the Presidium of the Hungarian People's Republic for his outstanding merits achieved in the field of his educational and research activities for over several decades. The Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the leaders of the county offered him their congratulations on this occasion. At the special session organized by the



Department of Zoology and the Center in Szeged of the Hungarian Society of Biology (December 8, 1983), the former students and co-workers of DR. AMBRUS ÁBRAHÁM, academician, expressed their esteem to him with their lectures. At this session, DR. IMRE TÖRŐ, academician, President of the Hungarian Society of Biology, handed over the greatest Hungarian Biologist Medal, the GELEI Medallion, to the person fêted.

Necrologue

PROF. DR. PÁL GREGUSS (1889–1984)

DR. PÁL GREGUSS retired professor died at the age of 95 on 23rd March, 1984. With his death we lost one of the greatest Hungarian botanic-anatomists.

Professor GREGUSS was the head of the Department of Botany and the director of the Botanical Garden in Szeged for 25 years.



He was born in Torna, in the County of Arad, on 31st December, in 1889. After attending school in Arad he began his university studies in Budapest, where he qualified as a teacher of biology and chemistry.

During World War I. he worked as a soldier at the University in Prague. After returning home, he taught at a Teachers' Training College. He acquired the title of university doctor in Budapest in 1919. He was one of the assistants of Professor F. HOLLENDONNER at the Teachers' Training College in 1920. He was appointed honorary lecturer at the PÉTER PÁZMÁNY University in 1927. In the same year he was invited to organize and direct the Department of Botany at Debrecen University. A year later he was appointed professor at the Teachers' Training College in Szeged. After the death of I. GYÖRFFY he was appointed professor in the Department of Botany at Szeged university in 1940. Here he worked with inexhaustible energy, and directed the teaching and research work for 25 years.

He had an extraordinary memory and constitution. Even 2 days before his death he was in the Department in his small room, where full of plans and conception, he was still working. He dealt with almost all branches of botany (Palynology, morphology, histology, xylotomy, genetic, taxonomy, etc.).

His first article was published at the age of 20, in 1909. As a result of 75 years of hard, persistent research work he published 46 books (handbooks and textbooks), 10 university text-books and 254 articles (scientific, educational etc.).

He continued his research work even after his retirement (1965). He was one of the most prolific .

His life served as an excellent example to illustrate that a person who wants to work after his retiring can do very well. During the years of retirement Professor GREGUSS wrote 61 articles. At present two of his major works are still in print.

From the beginning of the 1930's, he took up the research of extinct plants (fossils). His monograph entitled "Közép-Európai lomblevelű fák és cserjék meghatározása szövettani alapon" was published in 1947 and it made his name known among phytotomists.

Then his attention turned to the research of the structure of the gymnosperm and he completed his monograph entitled "Identification of Living Gymnosperms on the Basis of Xylotomy" in 1955 which contains 360 gymnospermous plants. This monograph has become known all over the world.

As the author of several books and papers Professor PÁL GREGUSS is known as a xylotomist for biologists in many countries.

During the four decades he spent as a professor he trained generations of teachers and researchers. They are now professors and highly qualified researchers taking a prominent part in the Hungarian world of science.

The main object of the lectures of Professor GREGUSS was to present the theory of evolution. In this excellent lectures he suggested love for nature, life and humanity. In this context he often spoke of the three greatest gifts of life namely about knowledge, love and health. He had a great share in all the three. His students loved him and attended his lectures with pleasure. He dealt with the flora of the different geological epochs in a clear and suggestive way.

Beside being a scientist and lecturer he was a man of public as well. He became the President of the Teachers' Trade Union formed in 1945 in Szeged. He was elected to be the Rector of our University in 1956.

He was rewarded many times in recognition of his scientific and educational work, the most important being the Kossuth Prize and the Order Decorated with the Flag of the Hungarian People's Republic.

The death of Professor GREGUSS is a grievous loss for both our university and Hungarian botany.

His name is enshrined in our memory for ever.

Editor's Note:

As for the scientific publications of Professor GREGUSS see our next number. Due to the great number of writings the material is being prepared for the press.

DR. S. GULYÁS

Doctor honoris causae

DR. A. A. KRASNOVSKY, Member of the Academy of Sciences of USSR, Head of the Photobiological Laboratory at the Bach Biochemical Institute.

Scientific Degrees

Doctors of Biological Sciences obtained by:

DR. L. OROSZ (Department of Genetics) with the dissertation "The moderate bacteriophage molecular genetics of *Rhizobium meliloti* 16-3", and by.

DR. F. ZSOLDOS (Department of Plant Physiology) with the dissertation "The effect of environmental factors on the ion uptake of plants".

Candidate of Biology:

DR. L. ERDÉLYI (Department of Comparative Physiology), obtained with the dissertation "Comparative physiological relations of the functioning of chemical synapses".

Appointment

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs has appointed DR. F. KEVEI to Assistant Professor at the Institute of Microbiology.

Retirings

DR. B. MAGDOLNA VARGA, scientific advisor (Department of Plant Physiology) and DR. H. MÁRIA MÉSZÁROS, Assistant Professor (Department of Genetics).

VARIA

The 9 biological departments have been integrated into a department group (Zoology, Biophysics, Biochemistry, Anthropology, Genetics, Microbiology, Plant Physiology, Botany and Comparative Physiology), of which DR. L. SZALAY, Professor, head of the Department of Biophysics, became the director.