

Fellows' Reminiscence

We are gathered here to raise a monument to Albert Szent-Györgyi whose name our university bears, close to the place where he worked so successfully.

The magnificence and warmth of our celebration is increased by the presence of the members of Szent-Györgyi family, besides the leaders, lecturers and students of the University and Szeged citizens devoted to the Professor. Raising the bust at this very place has a double significance. The arcades of Dom square buildings provide a place for the pantheon of Hungarian intellectuals, where monuments remind us of the greatest Hungarians who were pioneers of culture and eternal human progress: founders of Universities, writers, poets, scientists. Albert Szent-Györgyi the Nobel prize winning biochemist is worthy of his place among the great citizens of our country proving that our town highly respects this creative man.

This pantheon serves as a pattern especially to young people. Whenever school children walk around under the arcades and listen to their teachers' enthusiastic words raptly, we can be sure, that our celebration today will contribute to development in our country. The actual place where the bust has been put up is associated with this thought, that is the entrance to the Department of Medical Chemistry. For many years professor Szent-Györgyi went through this entrance to his daily work. Lately, we have been talking a lot about his work, and especially about its scientific significance.

Now I would rather speak about him, the affectionate friend and teacher of the young. His informal and charismatic personality had always had a great influence on the young. From his numerous exemplary activities, we have also inherited his principle: that our future is carried on by the young. To teach and educate is a sacred act, therefore it should be pursued like activities leading to factual results. He had humanistic principles in training, and he liked young people sound in body and mind around himself. When raising this bust to professor Szent-Györgyi we put ourselves on the side of the humanist he represented not only in words but also in his actions.

Thank is due to Márton Kalmár sculptor for reflecting in the bust all the spirit and pure humanistic strength characteristic of Albert Szent-Györgyi. May this bust enrich the Szeged pantheon of the greatest Hungarians and demonstrate to the present and future generations that the progress of a nation is based on the esteem of human qualities and creative work.



Inauguration of the bust of Albert Szent-Györgyi in the Szeged Pantheon (Professor András Szent-Györgyi and Mrs. Szent-Györgyi on the right-hand side).