

INTRODUCTION

This compilation of Albert Szent-Györgyi's essays and scientific papers together with his short biography provides one with a birdseye view of his wide ranging interest in science, of his concerns of issues facing mankind, of his efforts in building up science in Hungary and of his faith and hopes in future generations. He was a romantic spirit who lived for science. Prof, as his collaborators called him endured hardships in order to conduct his research and was ready for any sacrifice. He was an addict of science in the best possible meaning. He had a great belief in the value of a full life. He had strong convictions who disregarded risks, even his personal safety to state and stand up for what he thought was right. He had an uncanny ability to formulate issues whether scientific or those affecting society in a most direct way.

The list of publication and the titles gives one a feel of the evolution of Szent-Györgyi's efforts to develop the central theme of his research that focuses on the mechanism the cells evolved for energy production and energy utilization. The early publications illustrate his efforts to find a subject and discipline. In the beginning of the 1920s he initiates his pivotal studies on biological oxidation which eventually lead as a byproduct to the discovery of Vitamin-C and the award of the Nobel-prize. The second stage of his career in the late thirties and forties is represented by his fundamental studies on the molecular basis of muscle contraction. He has spent the last decades of his life probing the way proteins in general may serve as transducers of energy and their involvement in cell division and cancer.

This bibliography testifies Szent-Györgyi's increasing involvement in the moral and political issues of the day following his return to Hungary. His non-scientific writings reflect his convictions as to the role of scientists in society, on the responsibility to the use of knowledge for non-destructive purposes, in particular his faith in the younger generation.

Hidden behind the titles of the papers was a man of great warmth with a great sense of humor and an immense vitality and charm. He remained true to his principles: „To see what everyone sees and to think what nobody thinks.” Science was a very serious activity that one did for fun. He enjoyed life to the very end. He was fully aware of his contributions and retained a warm feeling towards his motherland especially for Szeged.

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