

EDITORIAL

70th Birthday of Professor Bohumil Ticháček, M. D., D.Sc.

This year in September reached the age of seventy years Professor Bohumil Ticháček M. D., D.Sc., the leading Czech scientist and former Director of National Institute of Public Health. His contribution to Czech microbiology and epidemiology is exceptional. Thanks to his great talents and erudition he covered wide range of research problems which, in combination with his organizational capabilities, led to the impressive results which influenced the development of both scientific disciplines in last decades. As a director of NIPH he contributed to the development of the new concept of Public Health in Czech Republic.

B. Ticháček was born on September 19, 1924 in České Velenice. Between 1935 and 1943 he received his high school education in Klatovy. After the end of the World War II he started his University studies at the Faculty of Medicine of Charles University in Plzeň, where he obtained the university degree in 1950. From 1951 to 1958 he served at the Chair of Health Prevention and later at the Chair of Epidemiology of the former Military Academy of Medicine in Hradec Králové. In 1958 he was appointed senior research scientist of newly founded Military Institute of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Microbiology in Prague. He worked there till September 1981 when he joined the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Prague, in the position of Deputy Director of this Institute. At the beginning of year 1990 he was appointed as the director of this Institute. Thanks to his continuous effort the name of the Institute was changed in January 1, 1992 back to the original title the National Institute of Public Health. In May 1994, Professor Ticháček retired from this position.

In 1960 he received his first scientific degree CSc. and five years later he became Associate Professor of epidemiology at the Medical Faculty of Hygiene, Charles University, Prague. In 1965 he attended the International WHO course on Epidemiology. Later he himself became a lecturer in epidemiological methodology at WHO-sponsored undertakings. In 1975 he received his second scientific degree D.Sc. The theme of this doctoral thesis was "Peracetic Acid." B. Ticháček's scientific and research career started from studies concerned with the epidemiology and laboratory diagnosis of some selected intestinal infections, namely bacillary dysentery and staphylococcal enterotoxicoeses. These studies were followed by research on general and specific aspects of disinfection and insect control which have become the backbone of his scientific interest. His activity in this field peaks undoubtedly by completion of his complex research into the disinfecting properties of peracetic acid and its production technology. Apart from introduction of this acid into the practical use as „PERSTERIL“ he published series of original papers and three monographs dealing with this matter.

His other research activities were remarkably wide, ranging from special microbiology to general epidemiology. Of these research projects let us mention few of the most important ones: Epidemiology and prevention of epidermatophytosis, prevention of foodborne infections in military, disinfection in environment, the survival of microorganisms under different laboratory and environmental conditions, survival of the microorganisms in aerosols, study on the factors influencing the pathogenicity and virulence of microorganisms, use of communicable diseases information systems in studies of the influence of environmental

conditions on health status of the population. Well known and appreciated are his studies on general and special disinfection, endogenous and mixed infections.

Prof. B. Ticháček is the author or co-author of more than 100 articles published in both Czechoslovak and foreign professional journals. He is the author of four monographs in ČR and co-author of three books published in Germany. He is an author or co-author of seven textbooks dealing with epidemiology in which he summed his findings and experience gathered during many years of work. They are used in both pre- and postgraduate education of epidemiology.

He has been active in organizing and addressing scientific conferences, seminars or congresses. He has over 150 professional communications, opening addresses or other presentations on such occasions, in both ČR or abroad. The pedagogic activity of Prof. Ticháček is also considerable. Between 1951 and 1958 he was a lecturer in hygiene, epidemiology and health statistics at the Military Academy of Medicine in Hradec Králové. Since 1965 he has been regularly invited to give the lectures at the Institute for postgraduate training of physicians and pharmacutists in Prague and Bratislava, at the Medical Faculty of Hygiene and First Medical Faculty, Charles University in Prague, at the Chair of Environmental Protection of Faculty of Natural Sciences, Charles University and at numerous other professional occasions.

Prof. Ticháček was repeatedly entrusted by the minister of health of Czech or Slovak Republics with solving of serious epidemiological situations e.g. cholera outbreak in Slovakia in 1971, hepatitis outbreak in Mongolia and worked as a epidemiologist in Vietnam, China and Cuba.

Prof. Ticháček is the member of the Board of Czech Medical Society of J. E. Purkyně, the chairman of Society for Epidemiology and Microbiology of Czech Medical Society, chief editor of the journal *Čs. Epidemiologie, mikrobiologie, imunologie* and the chief of the editorial board of *Central European Journal of Public Health* which he founded as a official journal of National Institute of Public Health. For many years he was also a member of the National commission for awarding D.Sc. degrees in epidemiology and participated in the work of all advisory bodies to Chief Hygiene Officer. After the year 1989 he prepared critical analyses of the situation in hygienic service and medical research. As a member of board of advisory team to Health Minister he elaborated them to the final suggestions. As a chief of the Hygiene Committee of the Internal Grant Agency of Ministry of Health of ČR he significantly influenced the new concept of the research in this field.

He was awarded the highest medical Medal of J. E. Purkyně and received several other awards appreciating his contribution to Czech Public Health. In April 1994 he was offered the post of Visiting Professor to University of Graz, Austria and decorated with medal of this University.

Professor Bohumil Ticháček M. D., D.Sc. is one of those few personalities who, thanks to their extraordinary capabilities and talents, succeeded in shifting our epidemiology and microbiology to the present day level.

The scientific board of our Journal, together with all Czech professional public wish him much success in further work, strong health and personal happiness.

B. K.

