

Obituary

Dr. K. HRUBÝ, professor of genetics at the Charles University in Prague and member of the editorial board of this journal succumbed at the age of 52 to a tragic automobile accident on December 10th, 1962. He was in the prime of his life and was in the midst of unfinished scientific plans and creative work. His activity as teacher and organizer has been terminated for ever. He was not able to complete his work on the book about the origin of fruit-trees, another concise book on genetics and a prodrome on butterflies of Slovakia and many other special genetic and cytological investigations remained unfinished.

Dr. Hrubý was born on September 30th, 1910 in Prague, studied at the Charles University as pupil of Professor B. NĚMEC and later of Prof. A. BROŽEK. At the outset of his career he devoted his efforts to cytology and plant physiology, later he began to work under the leadership of BROŽEK on genetic problems.

At the Institute of Genetics a group of devoted pupils has formed around him, many of whom are now active in theoretical research institutes as well as in practical fields. He was a talented mathematician who commissioned the publication of informative and original handbooks on biometrical aspects of genetics and on the practical treatment and evaluation of field experiments. He also published popular scientific books on genetics as well as numerous papers for the general public. Gradually the majority of young Czechoslovak geneticists gathered about him, in particular those working at Charles University. His first classical work was the exhaustive investigation of the cytology, anatomy and genetics of *Salvia* species (1933—1941). More recently he dealt with pollination experiments on fruit-trees and he succeeded in producing many promising new hybrid trees. He frequently organized the widely appreciated fruit exhibitions in the green-house of his institute. After several years of work he published a treatise of the Microlepidoptera of Slovakia. In 1961 he published an excellent text-book on genetics which had been awaited by the public for long years.

In his function as chairman of the Czechoslovak Botanical Society he organized in July 1961 the celebration of 50-years of its existence. He took part in the international gatherings of geneticists in Stockholm and Montreal where he made many personal contacts and friendships.

Although the scientific career of Professor Hrubý has not always been smooth and without obstacles he managed to keep his creative spirit and scientific optimism. His death arrived the more tragically in that it was so

unexpected and will mean a permanent loss to Czechoslovak genetics and to the Charles University.

He will be remembered by all who knew him as unflagging, straightforward and true to his scientific convictions. His pupils and collaborators will keep up his scientific, earnest and self-effacing heritage.

B. Němec