



Prof. JAROSLAV SMOLÁK - deceased

Prof. PhDr. Jaroslav Smolák, DrSc. holder of the Golden Mendel Medal and of the decoration of J. E. Purkyně, member of the Czech Agricultural Academy, died on August 17, 1971 in his ninetieth year.

Prof. Smolák, born on February 12, 1882 in Červený Hrádek near Zásmuky in Bohemia, was the oldest student of Prof. B. Němec. His interest in mycology was encouraged by Prof. Bubák. Among his teachers was also Prof. Blackmann whose lectures Smolák attended in London. Prof. Smolák established the first Czechoslovak Plant Pathology Research Station in Roudnice in 1910 and built up a network of plant protection workers. He graduated in 1921 at the Agricultural College in Brno and in 1925 at the Technical University in Prague. In 1957 Smolák was appointed professor of the College of Agriculture in Prague. He worked mainly in plant pathology and plant protection. More than 100 of his publications deal with virus diseases in plants and almost the same number of papers are devoted to plant diseases caused by fungi. His best known works are on disorders in fruit trees caused by low temperatures, glassy pulp in apples, the anatomy of the fungus *Graphiola phoenicis*, silver blotch on plum leaves, fungus symbionts of grasses, the toxic origin of Žďár horse disease. Other works are on virus diseases of the grape vine, vegetables, spruce, fruit trees and ornamental plants. He also wrote several textbooks on phytopathology and founded the journal "Ochrana rostlin" [Plant Protection] which he edited for almost thirty years. For forty years he was active in the Czechoslovak Botanical Society of which he was the oldest member. In Prof. Smolák our journal *Biologia Plantarum* has lost an active contributor.

Dr. J. Brčák