

ISAAK YAKOVLEVICH POSTOVSKII (on his 70th Birthday)

*Khimiya Geterotsiklicheskikh Soedinenii*, Vol. 4, No. 1, pp. 186-188, 1968

On March 17, 1968, seventy years had elapsed from the birth of Honored Scientist and Technologist of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic, Professor Doctor of Chemical Sciences Isaak Yakovlevich Postovskii, Director of the Department of Organic Chemistry of the Kirov Urals Polytechnic Institute.

I. Ya. Postovskii obtained his higher education at Myunkhensk Technical College and carried out his first scientific investigations on the structure of natural pigments and porphyrins in the laboratory of G. Fisher.

Since 1926, I. Ya. Postovskii has worked continuously as the Director of the Department of Organic Chemistry of the Urals Polytechnic Institute. The requirements of life itself, connected with the development of coal chemistry and the discovery of petroleum in the Urals, have determined his scientific investigations. In the first period, they were devoted to a study of these types of raw materials.

In 1929, while on a short scientific mission abroad, Isaak Yakovlevich together with F. Keglo studied the chemical structure of the bacterial pigment chlororaphin, which proved to be a derivative of phenazine.

At that time he developed a deep interest in the chemistry of nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compounds and in his work investigations of theoretical questions and practical problems of this important and interesting field of organic chemistry were strongly developed and closely intertwined. With the enthusiasm characteristic of him, I. Ya. Postovskii has studied thione-thiol tautomerism, azide-tetrazole transformations, the influence of steric factors on the reactivity of compounds, and other theoretical questions. His studies have made a significant contribution to the development of the theory of organic chemistry, particularly in connection with questions of the structure and properties of nitrogen-containing heterocycles. In the early periods of his scientific activity, I. Ya. Postovskii successfully dealt with problems of great practical importance. In the thirties, together with the lecturer L. N. Goldyrev, he synthesized a number of new sulfanilamide compounds which have subsequently found wide practical application. Among them was the first representative of the heterocyclic derivatives of the sulfanilamides, sulfa-pyridine.

During World War II, I. Ya. Postovskii and his pupils worked on the creation of a scientific foundation at the Sverdlovsk Chemical and Pharmaceutical Factory and introduced into industry sulfonamide preparations which Russian medicine needed. In the post-war years, Isaak Yakovlevich and B. N. Lundin took an active part in the organization of the production of organofluorine compounds.

For many years, I. Ya. Postovskii and his pupils have devoted themselves to a search for physiologically active compounds. The great purposefulness of his work on the synthesis and study of antitubercular materials led him into close contact with scientific medical institutions. The new antitubercular substance "Larusan", created in the department, has found use in medical practice. Successes have been achieved in the synthesis of compounds for eliminating heavy and radioactive metals from the organism, and a search is being carried out for materials with an antitumoral activity.

I. Ya. Postovskii has published more than 220 papers and has obtained 18 Authors' Certificates.

Pedagogic activity and the setting up of scientific departments have occupied a large part in the life of Professor I. Ya. Postovskii. He created the Urals school of organic chemists and under his direction 44 students have defended their candidate's theses. Young scientific pupils of I. Ya. Postovskii are working in Sverdlovsk, Ufa, Tyumeni, Omsk, Riga, Kiev, L'vov, Kemerovo, and other towns of the Union. Among I. Ya. Postovskii's pupils are Doctor of Chemical Sciences Z. V. Pushkareva, V. G. Plyusnin, R. O. Matevosyan, and S. V. Sokolov.

In addition to this, I. Ya. Postovskii, as the creator of the Urals school of chemistry, has done much for the organization of scientific chemical groups in the Urals. He is one of the founders of the Eastern Institute of Coal Chemistry and also of the Chemical Institute of the Urals Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. In the war years, I. Ya. Postovskii actively participated in the creation of a chemical and pharmaceutical scientific research institute, the Urals Branch of VNIKhFI [All-Union Chemical and Pharmaceutical Scientific Research Institute].

I. Ya. Postovskii's great organizing work has also been carried out in his own institute, where, in the course of years, he has become Dean of the Chemical and Technological Faculty and Pro-Rector for Science. In 1947 a Department of Organic Synthesis was split off from the Department of Organic Chemistry, and at the present time more than 800 engineers are working in this and a large amount of scientific work is being carried out.

Professor I. Ya. Postovskii is also known as a public figure. At the present time he is Chairman of the Organic Chemistry Section of the Sverdlovsk Division of the Mendeleev All-Union Chemical Society and a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal "Kimiya Geterotsiklicheskikh Soedinenii" [Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds].

Professor I. Ya. Postovskii's scientific advances have twice been marked by a state prize.

For his distinguished activity, I. Ya. Postovskii has been awarded the Order of Lenin, two Orders of the Red Banner of Labor, and the Order of the Medal of Honor.

The great leading Soviet scientist, the enthusiastic highly erudite manysided chemist, outstanding pedagogue and tutor of scientific youth, excellent organizer

and notable personage, lover of his fellow men, art, and music, I. Ya. Postovskii, still full of creative force and projects, now directs a large scientific group which is making a solid contribution to the development of organic chemistry. On his birthday, we wish Isaak Yakovlevich many years of creative work and new successes for the benefit of Soviet science.