GALA OCCASION FOR SOVIET SCIENTISTS

In 1974 Soviet scientists and all of the Soviet people will triumphantly mark the 250th anniversary of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. This date will include a review of the achievements of Soviet science and its rich traditions in connection with which the prospects for future development will be discussed. In a decree of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CC of the CPSU) entitled "The 250th Jubilee of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR" the quality of our scientists' achievements was evaluated. Moreover, problems of the development of science and scientific–technical progress in our country that require urgent discussion were posed.

Created by the decree of Peter the First, the Petersburg Academy of Sciences and its successor – Academy of Sciences of the USSR – have traversed a glorious path of development and have enriched world science with discoveries of paramount significance. The most outstanding Russian scientists, including such leading figures of organic chemistry as N. N. Zinin, A. M. Butlerov, L. A. Chugaev, V. N. Ipat'ev, P. I. Val'den, N. D. Zelinskii, A. E. Favorskii, A. E. Arbuzov, V. M. Rodionov, I. N. Nazarov, M. M. Shemyakin, etc., have been members of the staff of the Academy of Sciences. The discoveries made by them and their scientific schools have had a substantial effect on the formation and development of organic chemistry, including the chemistry of heterocyclic compounds, and on the development of chemical technology and the creation of new dyes, medicinal preparations, and agents for the chemization of agriculture.

The Great October Socialist Revolution opened up broad prospects for development of the Academy of Sciences. Immediately after the revolution, the Soviet government adopted measures for the financing of the Academy and for the creation of a laboratory base.

Excellent chemical institutes possessing specialized laboratory buildings equipped with modern instrumentation are presently functioning within the framework of the Academy of Sciences. These chemical institutes have been created not only in Moscow and Leningrad but also in Siberia, Kazan, Gor'kii, Sverdlovsk, and other cities in the country.

The Academy of Sicences of the USSR has been of great assistance in the organization of other academies of sciences in the various republics of the Soviet Union. The training of personnel, the discussion of scientific trends, the holding of joint conferences and meetings, and comprehensive aid from the Academy of Sciences of the USSR have enabled the academies of the republics of the Soviet Union to rapidly achieve their high scientific level.

Noteworthy in this respect is the fact that one of the leading Soviet journals, in a timely field of organic chemistry – the chemistry of heterocyclic compounds – is published by the Academy of Sciences of the Lativian SSR and is issued in Riga. Our journal was organized 9 years ago with the support of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and since then has become the center of publication of papers on the chemistry of heterocycles, which constitutes about half the volume of organic chemistry publications.

From the material published in the journal one may form a judgment regarding the principal trends of the research of Soviet chemists specializing in heterocyclic chemistry, their interrelationships, and the chief centers of research in the field of heterocycles. Papers by Academicians I. L. Knunyants, I. Ya. Postovskii, B. A. Arbuzov, and A. S. Sadykov, and Associate Members of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR N. K. Kochetkov, M. G. Voronkov, Yu. A. Zhdanov, V. P. Mamaev, A. V. Bogat-skii, M. F. Shostakovskii, A. P. Terent'ev, Professors Ya. L. Gol'dfarb, A. N. Kost, K. Yu. Novitskii, N. N. Suvorov, Yu. P. Shvachkin, and V. I. Minkin, and many other prominent Soviet scientists are published regularly in the journal. In addition to papers by scientists from Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Riga, Sverdlovsk, Rostov-on-Don, papers from Novosibirsk, Saratov, Irkutsk, Alma Ata, Tashkent, Kazan, Odessa, Yerevan, Tbilisi, Vilnius, Minsk, and other cities in our country are published in the journal.

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The ever expanding significance of the chemistry of heterocyclic compounds is explained by the fact that this field of organic chemistry is the basis of such important applied trends as synthetic medicinal substances (most of them created on the basis of heterocyclic compounds) and natural biologically active compounds (alkaloids, vitamins, enzymes, etc.); the solution of the problem of heredity and of the synthesis of protein rings on the problem of the investigation of the structure and synthesis of the animate key fragment of nucleic acid, which is a heterocyclic compound.

The classical trends in the chemistry of heterocyclic compounds that, as usual, require effort and attentiveness are those dealing with natural and synthetic dyes. The inadequate volume of production of a number of cheap and practical dyes in our country markedly hampers the output of modern high-quality textile articles.

In recent years compounds of the heterocyclic series have played a major role in the creation of new plant growth regulators, herbicides, defoliants, fungicides, and a number of other chemical agents necessary for agriculture. The chemical industry is doing intensive research towards the creation of new forms of fuels and explosives, organic scintillators and semiconductors, motion picture materials, and other extremely valuable chemical products. This branch of chemical science is of great value for the solution of such problems as the protection of metals from corrosion, the creation of copolymers with new properties, etc.

All of this has been responsible for the grandiose scope of research in the chemistry of heterocyclic compounds that is being done in the Soviet Union.

The chemists specializing in heterocyclic chemistry offer their most cordial congratulations to the Academy of Sciences of the USSR on this important date of its 250th Anniversary and express their confidence that Soviet scientists will continue in the future to conquer new frontiers on the path of scientific and technical progress.