

PREFACE

It is indeed a great pleasure and an honor for me to contribute the preface to this special issue which is dedicated to Professor Alan R. Katritzky on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

The late Professor E. Ochiai and I first encountered the name of Professor Katritzky through his review article, "The Chemistry of the Aromatic Heterocyclic *N*-Oxides" (56 QR395). His series on "*N*-Oxide and Related Compounds", his principal theme at that time, intensely aroused my interest, and I had earnestly wished to make the acquaintance of Professor Katritzky. This wish was fortunately realized in October, 1967, when I got the chance of visiting him at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. Since then our friendly, personal and scientific relationship has continued for over a quarter of a century.

A vast number of Professor Katritzky's achievements in the field of heterocyclic chemistry are concerned with fundamental problems in a wide variety of areas. When I first met him, his intensive studies of the IR, NMR and UV spectra and the tautomeric phenomena of many heterocyclic compounds have been steadily progressing besides the studies of *N*-oxide. Moreover the mechanistic studies of electrophilic substitution have also been initiated. It is impossible to overestimate Professor Katritzky's contributions to heterocyclic chemistry through his brilliant work on the many physiochemical aspects of heterocycles and the novel reactions of various functionalities peculiar to heterocycles. Although I dare not touch on all of his research areas, I would like to point out here that one of the most noticeable characteristics of his research is the way in which physical methods are fully utilized to elucidate the problem in hand.

However Professor Katritzky's academic contribution has not been relegated only to heterocyclic chemistry. His fundamental and extensive work has contributed to the development of new synthetic methods and to the better understanding of general problems in the field of general organic chemistry. These are relatively recent fruits, and their developments are much awaited.

Further, Professor Katritzky's contributions as an editor of "Advances in Heterocyclic Chemistry", "Physical Methods in Heterocyclic Chemistry", "Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry" and others, and as an author of Encyclopaedias, Monographs and miscellaneous publications, are also highly

admirable.

For his academic achievements, his distinguished services to science, education and industry, Professor Katritzky has been awarded many honors from many countries. Professor Katritzky is not only a prominent organic chemist but also a great teacher, his activities as the leader of the Katritzky School being universally esteemed. He is a serious and energetic man of cheery and genial personality.

Let me close by sending my warmest congratulations and very best wishes to an old friend who is an authoritative leader in the field of heterocyclic chemistry.

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Masatomo Hamana