



Prof. HANS KNÖLL

Obituary

HANS KNÖLL, director of the Central Institute of Microbiology and Experimental Therapy of the Academy of Sciences of German Democratic Republic, Jena, from 1953~1976, died on June 26 at the age of 65.

He was a member of the "Akademie der Wissenschaften der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik" and the "Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina", and was awarded several medals and national prizes.

After studying medicine at the University of Frankfurt/Main from 1931~1938 he was assistant at the Institute of Colloid Research at Frankfurt under Raphael Eduard Liesegang. There H. KNÖLL dealt with therapeutic studies in experimental cancer, tuberculin, and basic research on filtration of bacteria.

After gaining the medical degree Dr. med. at the University of Frankfurt in 1938 he joined the Jenaer Glaswerk Schott and Gen. where he became head of the newly founded bacteriological laboratory linked to the production of "all glass bacteria filters". The development of penicillin during the early forties encouraged him to start attempts to produce this drug and in 1943 his laboratory delivered the first preparations for local administration. After wartime large scale production of penicillin was established under H. KNÖLL's guidance in Jena. Three years later the pharmaceutical factory VEB Jenapharm was established to produce antibiotics and a number of biosynthetic and synthetic drugs. H. KNÖLL was appointed director of this plant.

In 1950 H. KNÖLL became professor of bacteriology at the University of Jena. Furthermore, H. KNÖLL initiated BCG production and a vaccination regime in the German Democratic Republic and was responsible for the establishment of the Institute of Microbiology and Experimental Therapy. Under his leadership the institute developed to one of the largest institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the GDR.

Among the scientific results that should be mentioned are the demonstration of nucleosides in living bacteria by means of phase contrast microscopy in 1944 and the complete description of the life cycle of *Sarcina maxima* in 1973. During the last few years H. KNÖLL worked on problems concerning the miniaturization and automation of microbiological methods. He developed a system of apparatuses for the selection of antibiotic producing microorganisms, and the evaluation of antibiotic activity.

(U. TAUBENECK)