

NECROLOGY

TO THE MEMORY OF M. A. VORONTSOVA

Died on the 19th of June, 1956, after a prolonged illness. Supervisor of the Department of Growth and Development of the Institute of Experimental Biology, Acad. Med. Sci. USSR, Professor Mariya Aleksandrovna Vorontsova.

M. A. Vorontsova was born in 1902 in the city of Kazan. In 1926 she was graduated from the First Moscow State University. In 1929 she completed her thesis in general biology at the Second Moscow State University, and she remained there to work on the faculty, subsequently transferring to the Institute of Experimental Morphogenesis, where between 1939 and 1941 she headed a group of workers studying problems of regeneration.



From 1939 through 1948 Mariya Aleksandrovna lectured as a member of the biological faculty of the First Moscow University, specializing in a course on regeneration, and at the same time served as a member of the faculty of general biology at the II Moscow Medical Institute.

In the Institute of Experimental Biology, Academy of Science USSR, M. A. Vorontsova worked from 1945, heading from 1948 the laboratory of growth and regeneration, and later the department of the same name.

M. A. Vorontsova's scientific activity began in her student years. Her first investigations (1926-1930) were devoted to questions of experimental endocrinology, in part, to questions of the influence of the hypophysis and gonads on pigmentations and secondary sexual characteristics. The works of M. A. Vorontsova in 1931-1936 were devoted to the study of regeneration and metamorphosis.

Considerable importance is attached to the series of works performed by M. A. Vorontsova and co-workers, in which it was demonstrated that differentiation of tissue components of the remnants of amputated organs (muscle, skeletal, skin) depends upon the specific direction of the regenerative process. The results of these investigations permitted M. A. Vorontsova and L. D. Liozner to formulate a whole series of weighty theoretical conclusions concerning the laws governing regenerative processes.

In 1945-1947 M. A. Vorontsova and co-workers, observing the regeneration of an organ after changes of its embryogenesis, determined that various disturbances in the structure of the organs repeat themselves as it regenerates.

In the monograph "Regeneration of Organs in Animals" M. A. Vorontsova demonstrated the incorrectness of the generally accepted theory of the decrease of regenerative capacity as the complexity of organization increases. M. A. Vorontsova and co-workers in her laboratory displayed numerous illustrations of regenerative capacity in mammals and elucidated important conditions furthering the regenerative process.

In the monographs "Restoration of Destroyed Organs among Animals and in Man" and "Physiological Regeneration" M. A. Vorontsova developed the concept of the necessity of studying the morphology of the regenerative process. She attached great importance to the study of the physiological processes involved in regeneration.

A series of works by M. A. Vorontsova was devoted to a study of the connection between regenerative processes and malignant growth.

M. A. Vorontsova published more than 50 scientific works, of which 4 were monographs. Her last work was written in collaboration with L. D. Liozner as a monograph "Asexual Multiplication and Regeneration."

M. A. Vorontsova trained many young workers who now labor in her special field of the problems of regeneration. Many experimental observations were made and dissertations prepared under her direction.

In the Institute of Experimental Biology, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, M. A. Vorontsova created a large laboratory, staffed mainly by her students, in which great success was obtained in the study of questions of regeneration in its morphophysiological aspects.

Along with her broad scientific work M. A. Vorontsova was an active communal worker. She was a member of the editorial board of journals "Byulleten eksperimentalnoi biologii i meditsiny" and "Biologiya," assistant to the chairman of the section of histology and embryology in the Moscow Society of Naturalists, a member of the governing committee of the Moscow section of the Society of Anatomists, Histologists, and Embryologists, a member of the Scientific Council of the Medical-Biological Division, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, a member of the Interinstitute Council on Morphology at the Presidium Academy of Medical Sciences USSR.

In 1950 Mariya Aleksandrovna entered the ranks of the Communist Party. In 1952 she was rewarded by the order of Worker's Red Star.

For her entire scientific life M. A. Vorontsova worked with exceptional skill on problems which were of interest to her. She possessed a remarkable talent for gathering around her young scientific workers. She earned the great love of her co-workers and students for the exceptional understanding and the care that she gave their needs, as well as for the attention paid to their scientific and cultural development. All who even met Mariya Aleksandrovna will remember a leader, a comrade, and a sensitive and responsive human being.

The Editorial Board

Acting Member Acad. Med. Sci. USSR S. E. Sverin

Acting Member Acad. Med. Sci. USSR N. N.

Zhukov-Verezhnikov

Professors I. N. Maïsky and V. S. Gostev

Candidate for biological sciences V. N. Dobrokhotoy,

Candidates for medical sciences, I. V. Markelova,

L. S. Volkova and A. K. Saakov