

SERGEI EVGEN'EVICH SEVERIN

(ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY)

On December 21, 1961, the scientific community observed the 60th birthday of Sergei Evgen'evich Severin. S. E. Severin graduated in 1924 from the medical department of the Ist Moscow State University. During his second year, he began to specialize in chemistry at the Laboratory of Medical Chemistry under the direction of Academician V. S. Gulevich, one of Russia's foremost biochemists. During his work in this laboratory and his concurrent work as a biochemist in the physiological laboratory of the Institute, where he studied occupational disease under the direction of I. P. Razenkov, Sergei Evgen'evich became a fellow. His work in these two laboratories determined S. E. Severin's scientific field of interest and the direction of his subsequent research. In the physiological laboratory, Sergei Evgen'evich helped organize a biochemical division in which the chemical composition and physiological properties of the blood were studied under different physiological conditions of the organism. The results of investigations concerned with blood as a physicochemical system and with the study of its respiratory function permitted S. E. Severin to make his debut at the Congress of Physiologists held in Moscow in 1935 and then at the International Congress of Physiologists held in Leningrad the same year with a critical analysis of the physicochemical diagrams and nomograms popular during the period 1925-1935, showing why the latter were unsuited for use in research on blood under different physiological conditions.

At the Central Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion in 1930, Sergei Evgen'evich organized a laboratory for the study of the biochemistry of blood; the many works carried out in this laboratory concerned the anaerobic and oxidizing metabolism of erythrocytes, the dissociation curves of carbonic acid and oxyhemoglobin in the blood and questions associated with the preservation of blood. Most theories as to the mechanism of glucose's preserving effect on the blood and the factors affecting the process of oxygen fixation by the blood are based on these works.

At the State Medical Training Combine (reorganized in 1935 to become the III Moscow Medical Institute) S. E. Severin organized a department of physical and colloid chemistry in 1931 and then, a little later, a department of physiologic chemistry.

The development of research concerned with the circulation, transformations and biological significance of nitrogenous extractive substances of the skeletal musculature was initiated here. When the Institute was moved to Ryazan', research on this theme was completely concentrated in MGU, where S. E. Severin had been engaged in 1929 as director of the students in one of the sections of applied physiology. On the initiative of S. E. Severin, the Biology Faculty of MGU organized a laboratory in 1935 and, in 1939, a department of animal biochemistry. S. E. Severin was chosen to head this new department in 1939.

The present Department of Animal Biochemistry, which is housed in the new building of the Soil Biology Faculty in the Lenin Mountains, was planned by S. E. Severin and his closest associates. Research in the comparative biochemical aspect of muscle tissue metabolism is being continued by S. E. Severin and a group of the department's co-workers at Moscow University; special attention is being given to oxidizing phosphorylation and the biological role of nitrogenous extractive substances in the functional activity of skeletal muscles. For the last three years, S. E. Severin has directed research on the biochemistry of the heart muscle under normal and pathologic conditions, carried out at the biochemical laboratory of the AMN SSSR Institute of Pharmacology and Chemotherapy.

In addition to his work in the department and laboratories, S. E. Severin has given much time and energy to the development of scientific research at the AMN SSSR Institute of Nutrition, of which he was director for more than two years during the period 1945-1948.

S. E. Severin was made a Corresponding Member of the AMN SSSR in 1945 and an Active Member in 1949. His valuable work as Academician-Secretary of the academy's medico-biological division, which office he held for three electoral terms, is well known.

S. E. Severin became a Corresponding Member of the AN SSSR in 1953 and was a member of the Bureau of the Division of Biological Sciences for more than five years.

For more than seven years, S. E. Severin was editor-in-chief of the journal, "Problems of Medical Chemistry" and, at the same time, editor of the chemistry section of the Grand Medical Encyclopedia. For many years, S. E. Severin worked as editor of the "Biology" section and as assistant editor of the journal, "Bulletin of Experimental Biology and Medicine". S. E. Severin was on the board and a member of the presidium of the Physiological Scientific Society for more than 30 years. When the All-Union Biochemical Society was organized, S. E. Severin was elected its vice-president and president of the Moscow branch of the Society. About 50 Candidates of Sciences and several Doctors of Sciences have written and successfully defended their dissertations on themes proposed by S. E. Severin and developed under his direction.

S. E. Severin's work is highly regarded by the government; he has been awarded two Orders of Lenin, the Order of the Red Banner of Labor and medals.

In all his undertakings, S. E. Severin has always shown himself to be an active and tactful organizer, as well as a modest and exceptionally friendly person. These qualities, along with his productive work in science, education and scientific societies, his remarkable ability as a lecturer and his great scientific achievements, have won S. E. Severin love, recognition and popularity on every level of our society.

The editorial office of the journal, "Bulletin of Experimental Biology and Medicine", warmly congratulates our dear Sergei Evgen'evich and wishes him long life, productive work, success and happiness.