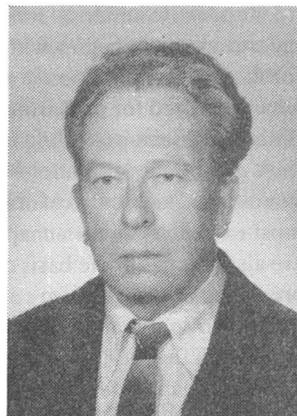


Professor Ing. Dr. Otto Exner, DrSc. Sixty Years Old

One of our foremost scientists in the field of physical organic chemistry, Professor *O. Exner*, born in Prague, will be sixty on November 14, 1984. After graduation from the Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague in 1949, he was launched upon his scientific career at various institutes of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences which resulted soon in receiving the titles dr. technol. (1951) and DrSc. (1961). After an early period devoted to organic synthesis, the main interest of Professor Exner was shifted towards investigation of the relationships between structure, reactivity, and physical properties of organic molecules. His papers devoted to structure determination of less extensively studied types of organic compounds containing the hydroxylamino groups, represent important scientific achievements. In elucidation of conformation and configuration he used besides classic



methods his own original physicochemical approaches which have been further creatively developed by a number of his successors. His papers on correlation analysis, isokinetic relation and dipole moments gained him a world-wide recognition. These papers belong to the most frequently cited of those originated in East European countries (200—250 citations a year). His own results together with a critical evaluation of relevant literature data Professor Exner summarized in the book *Korelační vztahy v organické chemii* (Correlations in Organic Chemistry). His important contribution to the correlation analysis is best documented by the chapter The Exner Analysis in the book *Physical Organic Chemistry* written by the Nestor of the field Professor *L. P. Hammett*. The mentioned volume also contains a chapter devoted to isokinetic relation which was solved by Professor Exner using an unconventional mathematical approach and a new statistical evaluation which led to discovery of one of the most remarkable failures of contemporary natural sciences. The new statistical approach which he successfully applied in other branches of chemistry, e.g. in the evaluation of compound properties (parachor, reochor, refraction, Kopp rule), enabled to correct the data obtained by former methods. A great international recognition was given to his new graphical method of determination of dipole moments. The method was incorporated into a textbook by *Minkin, Osipov, and Zhdanov* and also found application in a number of laboratories abroad (in the USSR, GDR, Hungary, the USA).

Besides intense research work, Professor Exner paid great attention to the education of new scientific generation. In the period 1964—1982, and since 1969 as a full professor, he lectured on physical organic chemistry at Technical Universities in Pardubice and Bratislava. For pedagogic purposes he wrote the teaching texts *Structure and Reactivity* as well as the first complete script *Physical Organic Chemistry* in Slovak. The extensive work of Professor Exner, comprising about 200 original papers, more than 20 lectures given in 21 countries, 10 plenary

lectures given at scientific meetings abroad, 3 books and 8 scripts, is an outstanding representation of Czechoslovak science at home and abroad, and a significant contribution to the treasure of our knowledge.

In spite of his very successful scientific career, Professor Exner remains modest and friendly, never tired to help and advise people. In the name of those who know his sincere and warm relation to Slovakia and his important role in education of our students, we wish him on the occasion of his jubilee a good health and young enthusiasm, may he continue in his promotive work for further development of physical organic chemistry in our country and all over the world.

A. Jurášek

NEWS

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