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Professor Sango Kunichika
On the Occasion of his Retirement*

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国近三吾教授
Professor Dr. S. Kunichika

Emeritus Professor Sango Kunichika

Having completed 37 years of service at Kyoto University, Professor Sango Kunichika retired on March 31, 1972. On the next day he was conferred an emeritus professor by the University.

Dr. Kunichika was born on February 18, 1909, in a small village in Hiroshima Prefecture. In Hiroshima High School, his interest in organic chemistry was first excited. He then entered Kyoto University, and in March, 1935, he graduated from the University with his major in chemistry. His first achievement was in the success of the synthesis of acetylformoin under the direction of the late Professor Ryuzaburo Nodzu, Department of Chemistry of the Faculty of Science. He was appointed a research assistant in April, 1935. He joined the Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University in May, 1938, and was appointed a lecturer in April, 1940, and an assistant professor in February, 1944. In September, 1948, he was conferred a D. Sc. from Kyoto University for his study on the synthesis of acetaldehyde from acetylene by the vapor phase method. For these years, he was concerned with the studies on acetylene and its derivatives. In June, 1951, he was promoted to a full professor at Kyoto University. In following years his interest was directed to the exploitation of new synthetic methods of various monomers and to the elucidation of the reactions used for the syntheses with many remarkable academic achievements.

Since 1955, Dr. Kunichika gave lectures on polymer chemistry at the graduate school of science, and supervised dissertation works of many graduate students. In 1965, he visited the United States of America to give a lecture on the new synthesis of methyl methacrylate from propylene.

For three years from December, 1964 to December, 1967 Dr. Kunichika served as Director of the Institute and above all contributed very much to the move of the Institute from Takatsuki to Uji. In December, 1970, he was nominated again as the Director, and he aided in the solution of many problems until his retirement. He also showed his administrative ability as a member of the University Council and various committees on the campus. Further, he served as Director of the Kinki Area Chapter of the Chemical Society of Japan and that of the Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan.

Owing to his sincere, thoughtful and warm personality, Dr. Kunichika communicated well not only with the older members of the University but had a deep understanding with the students as well. His participation in student activities and his personal contact with the students helped to deepen this understanding. His motto was "to be deliberate in council and prompt in action".

This collection of papers by his colleagues, former and present associates, and students is dedicated to Dr. Kunichika in honor of his retirement.

July, 1972

Eiji Suito

Director
Institute for Chemical Research
Kyoto University

CONTENTS

Commemoration Issue Dedicated to Professor Sango Kunichika
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Originals

- Akio Nakajima and Toshio Hayashi: Synthesis and Conformation Studies of Copolypeptides Composed of γ -Benzyl-L-Glutamate and ϵ -*N*-Carbobenzoxy-L-Lysine 303
- Hiroshi Watanabe and Yasuaki Kōzai: Studies on Polypeptides. (V). Thermal Polycondensation of Alanine in the Presence of Carboxylic Acids 318
- Eiichi Fujita, Yukikazu Saeki, Masahito Ochiai and Takehisa Inoue: Investigation of the Neutral Constituents of *Lythrum Salicaria* L 327
- Susumu Hirase and Kyoko Watanabe: The Presence of Pyruvate Residues in λ -Carrageenan and a Similar Polysaccharide..... 332
- Yasuo Kita, Naokazu Koizumi and Kazuhiro Maruyama: The Reaction of Nitrosobenzene with Benzylamine in Non-Aqueous Media..... 337
- Kazuhiro Maruyama, Tetsuo Otsuki, Akio Takuwa and Saburo Kako: Photochemical Reaction of 1,4-Naphthoquinone with Olefins..... 344
- Kazuhiro Maruyama, Akio Takuwa, Tetsuo Otsuki and Saburo Kako: Syntheses of 9-Acyloxy-10-hydroxyphenanthrenes by Photochemical Reaction..... 348
- Jun-ichi Hayami, Nobuo Tanaka and Nobuhisa Hihara: S_N2 Reactions in Dipolar Aprotic Solvents.II. Direct Displacement Reactions of Substituted Benzyl Chlorides with Halide Anion in Acetonitrile..... 354
- Takao Katagiri, Osamu Nakachi, Toshihiro Suzuki, Kunihiko Takabe and Juntaro Tanaka: The Hydration of Isoprene with a Cation Exchange Resin Catalyst... 363
- Shigeo Tanimoto, Yoshihisa Imazu, Mitsuru Imuta and Masaya Okano: Syntheses of Some Derivatives of 1,4-Dioxane and 1,3-Dioxolane..... 368
- Yasumasa Sakakibara, Tsutomu Tagano, Mutsuji Sakai and Norito Uchino: The Dimerization Reaction of Propylene by Nickel Acetylacetonat—Triethylaluminum Sesequichloride—Tertiary Phosphine Catalyst. Electronic and Steric Effect of Phosphorous Ligands 375
- Mamoru Taniuchi: The Synthesis of Methylacetylene by the Pyrolysis of Propylene. (VII). The Catalysis of Iodine..... 383
- Sango Kunichika, Yasumasa Sakakibara, Mamoru Taniuchi and Ryoji Okuda: The Synthesis of Methylacetylene by the Pyrolysis of Propylene. (VIII). The Pyrolysis of Allyl Bromide 393

Note

- Makoto Ichii, Takashi Sugiyama and Shinzaburo Oka: Friedel-Crafts Aralkylation III. The Reaction of Benzene with 2-Phenylethyl-1, 1-d₂ and 2-(p-Chlorophenyl)-ethyl-1, 1-d₂ Chlorides 404

Reviews

- Hitomi Suzuki: Unusual Aromatic Nitrations 407
- Sakae Uemura and Masaya Okano: Liquid Phase Halogenations with Metal Halides 423
- Kazuhiko Tanaka: The Cyanide-Ion Cleavage of Organic Disulfides..... 433
- Aritsune Kaji and Masatoshi Ogura: Thermal Rearrangement of Thiocoboxylates... 441
- Tadashi Okamoto: Recent Progress in the Chemistry of Allenes..... 450

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