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武 居 三 吉 博 士 Professor Dr. S. Takei

EMERITUS PROFESSOR SANKICHI TAKEI

October 26, 1896-

Having completed 34 years of service at Kyoto University, Professor Sankichi Takei retired on his sixty-third birthday, October 26, in 1959. On the next day an emeritus professor was conferred upon him by the university. For three years until his retirement he served as the 8th director of the Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University.

Dr. Takei was born October 26, 1896 in Okaya City, Nagano Prefecture, where he finished the primary and middle school courses. Through Daini High School, Sendai City, he entered Tokyo Imperial University, and in 1920, he graduated with a diploma on agricultural chemistry.

After his military service Dr. Takei joined the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research in Tokyo, in 1922, and as a research fellow collaborated with Professor Umetaro Suzuki and started to work on the chemical study of rotenone, the chemical structure of which was determined later by him. In 1925, he was appointed an assistant professor of the Department of Agricultural Chemistry, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyoto Imperial University. The next year, in 1926, he was dispatched to Germany to engage in a study on organic chemistry by an official order, and made his study as a research fellow to Professor Karl Freudenberg at the Chemical Institute of Heidelberg University. In December, 1956, he was appointed director of the Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University.

Besides giving lectures on organic chemistry, chemurgy, and chemistry of agricultural chemicals at the Faculty of Agriculture, he has pursued extensive researches at the Department of Agricultural Chemistry and also at the Institute for Chemical Research for thirty years. His research covered rotenone, essential oil of tea, leaf alcohol, grayanotoxin, phytohormone, BHC, alicyclic compounds, pyrethrin and natural rubber. Throughout the long period of his office, he also contributed greatly to the educational administration as chairman in the Department of Agricultural Chemistry, as well as a member of the University Council and various committees. Dr. Takei was a councilor of Japan Science Council from 1951 to 1953, and president of the Agricultural Chemical Society of Japan from 1957 to 1958. From 1937 Dr. Takei has been an editor of the "Botyu-Kagaku (Scientific Insect Control)", an organ of the Institute of Insect Control.

Many other honours came to Dr. Takei, including a doctorate of agriculture given by Tokyo Imperial University in 1933 on his study on the chemical structure of rotenone, and a Japan Academy Prize, in 1934, for the same study. For his distinguished achievements, Dr. Takei was also honoured with the nomination to a foreign member of "Kaiserliche Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher, Leopoldina" in 1958, and to a foreign member of "Heidelberger

Akademie der Wissenschaft" in 1959. In 1953, he attended the First International Congress of Plant Protection in Naples and Rome as a representative of Japan Academy Council, and after the congress, made visits to many countries in Europe. In 1959, he was invited to the annual meeting of "Kaiserliche Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher, Leopoldina" in Halle. After the meeting, he paid visits to many of the institutes and laboratories in Europe.

Lastly mention must be made that Dr. Takei is endowed with such quality as faithfulness, enthusiasm and fortitude. His warm personality earned for him many intimate and cordial friends in and out of our country. This collection of papers by his colleagues, former and present associates, and students, is dedicated to Dr. Takei as an expression of esteem and appreciation in commemoration of his retirement.

February 1960

Risaburo Nakai Director Institute for Chemical Research

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