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Professor Minoru Ohno
On the Occasion of his Retirement*

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大 野 稔 博 士
Professor Dr. M. Ohno

Emeritus Professor Minoru Ohno

Dr. Minoru Ohno retired on March 31 in 1972, after having completed total 38 years of service at Kyoto University. When he stepped down from the chair of research professor at Institute for Chemical Research, he stayed on as Professor Emeritus which was conferred upon him by the University.

Dr. Ohno is a native of Gifu Prefecture, born on October 17, 1908 and finished the primary and middle school courses and then enrolled in Gifu College of Agriculture and Forestry, majoring in agricultural chemistry. After the graduation, he left his home town to join Professor Takei's laboratory at the Department of Agricultural Chemistry, Kyoto University in 1930 when he started his academic career as an assistant of Professor Takei. Dr. Ohno was very skillful in organic chemical manipulations and soon proved himself to be a first-rate technician. Under Professor Takei, he was engaged in the structural elucidation of rotenone, pyrethrum assay and the study of aroma in manufactured green tea and black tea, and contributed very much to the activity of Professor Takei's laboratory. In particular, the studies on pyrethrum assay and leaf-alcohol and aldehyde were passed on him by Professor Takei and were investigated throughout the following three decades as Dr. Ohno's life work. In 1938, he was transferred to Institute for Chemical Research and worked there for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. In 1942, he was conferred a D. Sc. degree from Kyoto University for his study on leaf-alcohol and aldehyde. With the diploma, he left the Institute to work with Dainippon Jyotyugiku Company as the head of the research laboratories in the same year. During wartime, he temporarily worked for the Army Store. In 1946, he came back to the Institute as an instructor and started again the research works on pesticides and plant products. He was promoted to assistant professor in 1952 and full professor in 1956, succeeding his old professor.

Over the years, Dr. Ohno conducted studies on BHC, DDT, synergists, synthetic pyrethroids in collaboration with many co-workers and obtained some excellent achievements in the field of pesticide chemistry. Particularly, the pyrethrum assay and the study on leaf-alcohol and aldehyde which he re-examined and enthusiastically pursued in postwar time led him to an epoch-making development, by which he contributed very much to the industry.

Since 1963, Dr. Ohno taught phytochemistry at the graduate school of agriculture and was charged with supervising dissertation works of graduate students, during which he trained many Ph. D.'s.

Dr. Ohno is a person of high morality and sincerity, such that he wins respect of all people who come in contact with him. Thoughtfulness he extended to his colleagues and students will be remembered for a long long time.

April 1972

Eiji Suito

Director

Institute for Chemical Research
Kyoto University

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