

PROF. TIBOR MEISEL
1929—1986



In the full vigour of scientific research and lecturing activities, Tibor Meisel, D. Sc., professor at the Department of General and Analytical Chemistry of the Technical University, deceased on August 13, 1986. He stood before a grave operation, after having gone through several serious operations years ago, such that would have broken the spirit of most people for good. We watched him admiringly, his undiminished strength and energy with which he continued—even perhaps more enthusiastically than earlier—his manifold activities. In the first week of August 1986 an international congress took place in Budapest, where—knowing that in a few days a very critical operation awaits him—he gave a highly valuable comprehensive analysis of the present development of analytical chemistry and of its future trends. It will not survive, unfortunately, since he held it freely, without a written copy. A few days later he died on the operating table.

Tibor Meisel was born on May 25, 1929 in a small Hungarian-inhabited Czechoslovakian village, Kajal, that was reannexed to Hungary in 1938. His father was village notary, his mother was postmistress. He finished primary school in Kajal. After the World War, the Hungarian minority living in the districts that were returned to Czechoslovakian rule had to suffer various discriminations, among other difficulties in continuing studies. Tibor Meisel could not continue school either. For some time he worked in a machine factory and then escape to Hungary. Soon his family sentenced to resettlement followed him. In Hungary, after finishing secondary school, Tibor Meisel

studied at the University of Chemical Engineering in Veszprém and at the Chemical Engineering Faculty of the Technical University Budapest. After graduating he worked at that university from 1954 on. In 1958 he became first assistant at the Department of General (later General and Analytical) Chemistry, after some time associate professor and in 1982 professor. He completed and enriched his knowledge by means of a several-months study tour in the German Democratic Republic and, in 1968, a one-year scholarship in the USA.

He lectured on analytical chemistry for years. It is increasingly difficult for a single person to acquire comprehensive knowledge over the total field of analytical chemistry on a level fit for university lecturing. Tibor Meisel was one of the few qualified for the task. His research activities were manifold, with organic chemical analysis, however, dominating. As a special course of lectures he also read on this subject with great competence and manifest prediction; he was an excellent lecturer. For years he acted as vice-dean for studies and did much for modernizing the education of chemical engineers. He performed all his duties with great responsibility, expertise and deep humanity, for he was a true public-spirited man.

The results of his scientific research activities are preserved in several books and parts of books, in close to 100 publications and in several patents. He participated in the activity of the Department of General and Analytical Chemistry giving assistance to some developing countries in the modernization of teaching chemical analysis; within this frame he lectured and led exercises at universities in Egypt, India, Venezuela and Peru.

He began his analytical activity under professor László Erdey with volumetric analysis, applying novel indicators and complex compounds above all in organic analysis. He also participated in the development of several new methods in organic microanalysis. His interest then turned towards thermal analysis, a field in which the Department was one of the focal points in world-wide development. In this field he also mainly continued analysis of organic compounds, combining thermal methods with other modern methods such as electron spin resonance and NMR. He wrote on their application in environment protection in his book "Analysis of airborne particles by physical methods". He was elected member of the editorial board of the international journal "Journal of Thermal Analysis". His patents concerned the automated control of drinking waters. His activities are shown in detail in the bibliography following below.

His premature death put a sudden end to the realization of many scientific conceptions. It is a great human and professional loss to our university, to our faculty, to Hungarian and international analytical chemistry.

Ernő Pungor—Ferenc Szabadváry

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