

### 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Professor Ing. Dr. František Valentin

Professor *František Valentin*, one of the first after-war Slovak scientists and scholars, a leading personality at the Slovak Technical University and Comenius University in Bratislava would have been one hundred years of age in February. He was an organizer of scientific life and a pioneer in new procedures in food industry.

Born on February 5, 1892 in Hlohovec, he studied at the secondary schools in Trnava and Banská Bystrica, where he passed the final exams with distinction. He continued his studies at the Faculty of Theology of the Vienna University. From 1915 to 1920 he served as a chaplain in Banská Bystrica. Later on, he studied chemistry at the Prague Institute of Technology, from which he graduated in 1925. He started his chemical carrier as an assistant to Professor *Emil Votoček*; in 1927 he obtained his PhD. degree in chemistry and in 1934 he was appointed lecturer on the basis of his thesis "On a New Anhydrogalactose" His specialization was the chemistry of saccharides, but he was also interested in general and synthetic chemistry.

During his stay in Prague he published either as a sole author or coauthor with Professor Votoček more than 20 original papers mostly in French, Czech, and Serbo-Croatian. In 1937 he was elected Member Extraordinary of the Czech Royal Learned Society; in the same year, he was on leave at the world-known Institut de Biologie Physico-Chimique and Institut Curie in Paris.

In 1939 Professor Valentin was appointed to a university chair of medicinal chemistry at the Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University in Bratislava, in 1940 and 1941 professor of chemistry at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and the Slovak Technical University, respectively, where he also held chair of organic chemistry; the latter founded in 1941. From 1940 to 1942 he was dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, in the years 1941—1943 and 1943—1945 chancellor and vice-chancellor of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava. He was also President of the Slovak Learned Society reorganized later into the Slovak Academy of Science and Arts; in 1942 he was elected its first president.

Professor Valentin was the editor of the journal *Technický obzor slovenský* edited by the Society of Slovak Engineers and Slovak Foundation and member of the Editorial Board of *Chemical Papers* in 1947—1950. At the change to the totalitarian regime Professor Valentin was forced to early retirement; he was then active in the Research Institute of Distillery and Can Industry as a senior scientist heading a group working on utilization of fruits of wild-growing plants for vitamin-enriched food specialities.

The results of his scientific work were published in various specialized journals. Professor Valentin, a prominent personality among Slovak chemists died on January 27, 1966.

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