

### Professor Dr. Ing. Mikuláš Gregor



Professor Dr. Ing. Mikuláš Gregor, DrSc., Corresponding Member of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, died suddenly on 3rd November 1979. His name will be remembered for ever in relation with the graduate-level education of Slovak chemists, with the post-war development of modern inorganic and silicate industry and with research into and application of the Slovak mineral raw materials.

Professor Mikuláš Gregor was born on 25th November 1902 in Čelovce in the Eastern Slovakia. His career, which encompasses about 50 years of research activities and 40 years of University teaching, started in 1925 when he graduated from the University of Chemical Technology in Prague. In the next few years he held various positions in research and industry. In 1939 he became associate professor, in 1942 extraordinary and in 1946 ordinary professor at

the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava where he was working till the end of his life. In 1955, in recognition of his merits for the development of science he was nominated Corresponding Member of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. 1970 he received the State Prize of Klement Gottwald. He held quite a number of distinctions, awards, and honours bestowed upon him by the Academy, the Universities, and various research and industry institutions, from among which let us mention at least a few: The Golden Medal of the Slovak Technical University, The Silver Medal of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, The Dionýz Štúr Golden Honorary Plaque of the Slovak Academy of Sciences for Merits in Natural Sciences, The Hanuš Medal of the Czechoslovak Chemical Society, the Votoček Medal of the University of Chemical Technology in Prague, and many others. He was the Honorary Member of the Slovak Chemical Society, member of the Société de Chimie Industrielle, member and officer of the Society for History of Natural Sciences and Technology, member of the editorial board of the journals *Chemické zvesti* and *Chemický průmysl*.

Professor Gregor was an exceptional scientist who possessed the capability of understanding the interdisciplinary scientific correlations and who, at the same time, was able to keep abreast with the newest developments in the narrower fields of his special interests. Professor Gregor was always deeply concerned with industrial and technological applications, from which field he derived many an inspiring idea, and to which he, *vice versa*, transmitted the results of his investigations. Possessing qualities of an excellent organizer he fostered foundation and development of research institutions and of industry branches, especially of those which are based on exploitation of Czechoslovak mineral raw materials, e.g. such as clay minerals. He devoted much of his attention to problems of purification and utilization of

industrial air pollutants, to research into melts for aluminium and glass-producing industry, as well as to certain technological processes, *e.g.* fluid-bed roasting of silicate materials. The Department of Inorganic Technology of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava, which Professor Gregor had founded in 1942 and at the head of which he stood for long years, helped our nationalized industry in establishing research institutes, especially in the field of cement, glass, and aluminium industry. Professor Gregor, the first director of the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, initiated its foundation and contributed in decisive way to formulate its scientific program and goals.

There is one special field of activity in which Professor Gregor was engaged with a great deal of personal engagement and enthusiasm: it was his work of a University teacher. Under his guidance 500 engineers, 20 candidates of science (CSc.), five associate professors, and three doctors of science (DrSc.) qualified for their scientific degrees. Some of his pupils were appointed as University professors and some hold leading positions in the industry or in research institutes.

In Professor Gregor we lose an exceptional and great personality, a scientist, manager, and teacher whom all his coworkers respected. We all estimated his deeply human approach, his understanding and willingness to help whenever he felt his assistance was needed. For his achievements, his work and his personal qualities he will be remembered with reverence and love.

*M. Zikmund*