

SHORT HISTORY OF PARASITOLOGY IN ISRAEL BY ELI SCHWARTZ

במסגרת התהליכים שבוצעו על מנת לרשום אותנו כעמותה נמצאו מסמכים השופכים מעט אור על ההיסטוריה של האגודה.

התברר כי האגודה הראשונה, אשר היתה האגודה לפרוטוזואולוגיה, נרשמה כאגודה עותומנית בשנת 1964, ובכך למעשה חגגנו השנה את יובל ה-40!

יו"ר האגודה הראשון היתה ד"ר אביבה צוקרמן.

בשנת 1978 הוקמה האגודה הישראלית לפרזיטולוגיה, יו"ר הראשון היתה פרופ' גוטה ורטהיים.

כנראה שבשנת 1998 התאחדו שתי האגודות.

משנת 2001 הוסף לשם האגודה גם "מחלות טרופיות" ובכך הפכנו לאגודה הישראלית לפרזיטולוגיה, פרוטוזואולוגיה ומחלות טרופיות.

SAUL ADLER

1895-1966

Elected F.R.S 1957

Saul Adler was born in Karelitz, Czarist Russia in 1895. He immigrated to Britain with his parents as a child, the family settling in Leeds, where he received his formal primary and secondary education. In addition to this, he underwent a traditional Jewish upbringing that included achieving fluency in Hebrew and Yiddish. This eventually led to his involvement in the "Zionist ideal" and immigration to Israel, then Mandatory Palestine in 1924, as a doctor and academician. In 1912, he

gained a scholarship to study medicine at Leeds University, qualifying in 1917. In addition to his medical and scientific interests, during his undergraduate days, he showed considerable capability in mathematics and was interested in literary subjects, especially poetry, translating Byron and Tennyson into Hebrew and Yiddish. He was also an active sportsman and accomplished chess player.

On qualifying in medicine in 1917, he was commissioned as a officer in the British Royal Army Medical Corps and served in Mesopotamia from then until 1920. On being demobilized he went to the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, where he received a Diploma in Tropical Medicine. From 1921 to 1924, he worked at the Sir Alfred Lewis Jones Laboratory in Sierra Leone. In 1923 he married Sophie Husden, who later bore him two sons, Jonathan and Asher, and a daughter, Judith. All three achieved academic distinction. He came to the Hebrew University in 1924, about the time of its founding, and was appointed assistant in the Department of Microbiology. He became Associate Professor in 1928 and Professor of Parasitology in 1934, holding this position until his death in January 1966. He also served as Dean of the Medical School and was an active member of the Israeli Academy of Sciences. He received the following honors amongst others: Fellow of the British Royal; Gaspar Vianna Medal (Brazil); Chalmer's Medal, London (1933); Tchernichovsky Prize, Israel (1960); O.B.E., Britain (1946); Israeli Prize for Medical Science (1957); Bublik Prize, given on his deathbed (1966).

Saul Adler's scientific interests were extremely diverse and covered spirochaetes, bartonellosis, American trypanosomiasis, trichomoniasis, malaria, theileriasis, various aspects of medical entomology, including

sand flies and acarology, and helminthology, including filariasis and hookworm; but, especially the leishmaniasis and sand flies as their vectors. His studies collectively encompassed the basic biology and physiology of parasites, classification and taxonomy, particularly of the genus *Leishmania* and sand flies, culture techniques, serology and immunology, vaccination, chemotherapy and experimental infections in laboratory animal models. He is renowned for his introducing the Syrian hamster as a model for research on leishmaniasis and he did much on human and canine leishmaniasis. He was as active in the field as in the laboratory, visiting many endemic regions in many different lands, exposing the epidemiology of leishmaniasis. The total of his research led to the publication of more than 200 scientific papers.

Finally, a word must be added about his great interest in Charles Darwin and Darwinism. In 1960, he gave the Magnes lectures on "Darwin and Darwinism", the first entitled "Darwin and his work" and the second "Darwinism and ethics". These were published in Hebrew. While on the subject of Darwin, Adler's hypothesis that Darwin's illness was due to Chagas disease caused by infection with *Trypanosoma cruzi* is well known and has caused considerable interest and comment. Saul Adler was an extremely competent linguist. He spoke, read, and lectured in English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and, as mentioned, Hebrew and Yiddish. His mastery of English and Hebrew was manifested by his translation of Darwin's *Origin of Species* into Hebrew, in which language he had to coin new words when there was no Hebrew equivalent.