

O B I T U A R Y

ACADEMICIAN VLADIMIR MIKHAILOVICH RODIONOV

The death occurred on February 7, 1954, of Academician Vladimir Mikhailovich Rodionov, the eminent chemist, great technologist, and teacher, one of the founders of our synthetic dye industry and of the industry concerned with the preparation of alkaloids and pharmaceuticals.

V. M. Rodionov was born in Moscow on October 16 (28, New Style), 1878; he was educated in Moscow, graduating from the Moscow Technical High School.

His scientific activities have been characterized by the profundity of the investigations that he and his numerous students have carried out and by the wideness and variety of his scientific interests. He has published more than 150 scientific papers and has received more than 15 Author's Certificates for inventions; he has translated and edited about twenty important books and monographs on various branches of chemistry. He has discovered and developed new methods for the alkylation of organic compounds that are widely applied in the pharmaceuticals and dye industries, and he proposed an original method for the preparation of diazophenolsulfonic acids, which are of great importance in the preparation of high-quality dyes. He has discovered also, methods, remarkable for their simplicity, for the synthesis of β -amino acids, which are of very great importance in biology. Of no less importance are the methods developed by Rodionov for the conversion of β -amino acids and their derivatives into various types of heterocyclic compounds, which are widely used for the synthesis of medicinals, vitamins, and antibiotics.

In the course of his long career as a teacher, Rodionov trained hundreds of talented technologists and investigators, including many who are now occupying responsible posts in industry, in the higher teaching establishments, and in the research institutes; some of his students have already established their own schools of investigation and have opened up new fields of work. More than thirty of his students are doctors of science, and more than seventy are candidates of science.

In addition to his scientific and teaching activities, Rodionov did much organizational work: he occupied a number of responsible positions in industry, and in the later years of his life he was president of the Technical Council of the Ministry of Chemical Industry.

V. M. Rodionov was a very significant figure in Soviet chemical circles. For many years he occupied responsible positions in the D. I. Mendeleev All-Union Chemical Society, and in his later years he was president of this society.

In 1939 he was elected a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and in 1943 he became an academician.

The Soviet government greatly appreciated Rodionov's services to his Fatherland, and he was awarded three Stalin prizes, the Order of Lenin, two Orders of the Red Banner of Labor, and a medal "For Valiant Work in the Great Patriotic War, 1941-1945".

In the loss of V. M. Rodionov, Soviet science has suffered a great blow. Scientists, industrial workers, and students will long retain vivid memories of Vladimir Mikhailovich Rodionov, as a great scientist, fervent patriot, and remarkable man.

Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences; Division of Chemical Sciences of the USSR Academy of Sciences; Ministry of Culture of the USSR; Ministry of Chemical Industry of the USSR; Ministry of Health of the USSR; D. I. Mendeleev All-Union Chemical Society.