In Memoriam

Professor Dr Med. Józef Jankowiak

1904-1984

On 13th October, 1984 died suddenly Professor Józef Jankowiak M.D., former Director of Polish Institute of Balneology and Bioclimatology, one of the oldest members and former Vice-President of the International Society of Biometeorology.

Józef Jankowiak was born on 20th January, 1904. He attended the University of Poznań, where he took his degree in medicine in 1929. His early work was concerned with the physical medicine. After a number of minor positions he was soon appointed head of the newly formed Department of Physical Medicine in Poznań. During this period (1930-1940) he published two handbooks: Physical Therapy (1934) and Physiotherapy (1936). During the second world war Dr Jankowiak worked in Warsaw. In 1945 he returned to Poznań and acted again as head of the Department of Physical Medicine. Because the problems of physical medicine including balneology and bioclimatology were his main occupation from the time that he began his effective scientific work, in 1951 he was appointed by the Ministry of Health as head of the new Institute, whose principal research was in problems relating to health – resort therapy. In 1952 he founded in Poznań the Polish Institute of Balneology and Bioclimatology, of which he was director till the time of his retirement in 1975.

In 1961 Józef Jankowiak was promoted to associate professor and in 1970 – to professor. His main scientific work was devoted to the problems of physical medicine, especially balneology, medical climatology and protection of the human environment. Professor Jankowiak published as author and co-author over 200 scientific papers. About 70 of them were published in scientific journals abroad. Among these numerous publications are handbooks "Physical Medicine" (1934) and Physiotherapy (1936) with later editions 1946, 1948 and 1954. Under the inspiring guidance of Prof. Jankowiak as Editor-in-Chief, were next published handbooks: Physical Therapy – General and Clinical (1968, 1972), Balneology – General and Clinical (1962, 1971), Human
Biometeorology (1976). Prof. Jankowiak contributed also to the handbooks: Medical Hydrology (1962) and Medical Climatology (1964) E. Licht New Haven, USA. He was a member of the editorial board of six Polish and several scientific periodicals abroad (eg. Archiv für Physikalische Therapie, Europa Medico-Physica, Zeitschrift für Rehabilitation).

Prof. Jankowiak was associated with activities of many scientific organizations in Poland and abroad. In 1953 he became the President of Polish Society of Balneology, Bioclimatology and Physical Medicine (of which he was a founding member). At the same time he founded the scientific journal "Polish Balneology" and acted effectively as Editor-in-Chief until his retirement in 1975.

Prof. Jankowiak was corresponding member of the International Rehabilitation Medicine Association, German Society of Balneology, Bioclimatology and Physical Medicine, Royal Society of Medicine, American Society of Rehabilitation, French Society of Medical Hydrology and Climatology, Japanese Association of Physical Medicine and Balneology and others.

From 1968 he has acted as Areal Representative of the International Society of Biometeorology for Poland. Under his guidance several Polish scientists joined the ISB. Since the 1972 till 1979 Prof. Jankowiak served on the ISB Board as one of the Vice-Presidents. In 1962 he was elected Vice-President and in 1970 as President of the International Society of Medical Hydrology and Climatology, which position he held until 1974. For his abundant and deep knowledge he was in great demand and stimulated the numerous seminars, symposia, commissions and committees. He attended numerous national and international Congresses.

Many honorary degrees have been awarded to Professor Jankowiak during his career for his outstanding contributions in the field of physical medicine – especially balneology and medical climatology. He received the Gold Medal Award from the Polish Society of Balneology, Bioclimatology and Physical Medicine (1969); Silver Medal of French Society of Medical Hydrology and Climatology (1966), Honorary Diploma from the International Society of Medical Hydrology and Climatology from the Polish Medical Alliance in USA, International Society of Medicine and Rehabilitation; Society of Health-resort Therapy SSRR; Italian Society of Health-resort Therapy and others. Highly esteemed in Poland and abroad Prof. Jankowiak was a Honorary Member of many scientific societies such as the Czechoslovak Medical Association (1962), Italian Society of Medical Hydrology (1965), Austrian Society for Balneology and Medical Climatology (1966), Portuguese Society of Medical Hydrology (1970), Bulgarian Society of Balneology, Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation (1972), German Society for Physiotherapy (1974), German Society of Balneology and Medical Climatology and others. After his retirement in 1975 Prof. Jankowiak concentrated his activities on the Polish and International scientific organisations, he continued lecturing to physicians, working in health-resorts. Beyond his professional life Prof. Jankowiak was very fond of travelling, belles-lettres and ancient cultures.

Prof. Jankowiak was a very kind-hearted man. His kindliness and compassionate nature endeared him to all who knew him and worked with him. He made many a friend in Poland and abroad, gifted with charm and warmth of affection as he was.