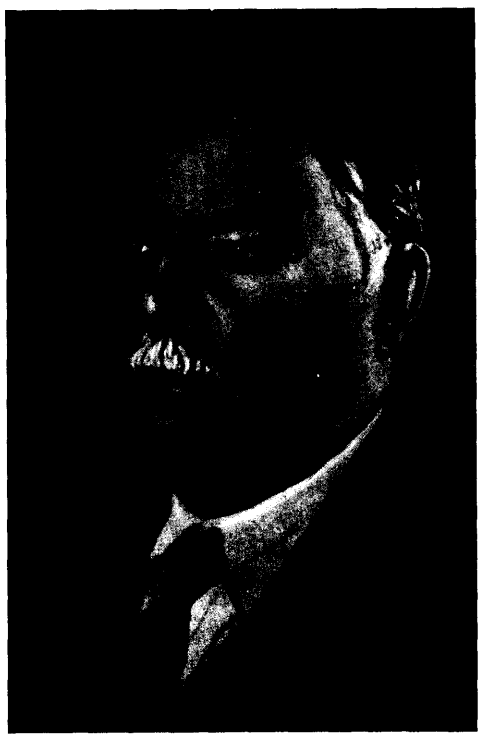
RUSSIAN CHEMICAL REVIEWS
Uspekhi Khimii

August 1976

Translated from *Uspekhi Khimii*, **45**, 1337 (1976)

Sergei Semenovich Nametkin 1876-1976



Sergei Semenovich Nametkin
1876—1976

The 3rd of July 1976 was the hundredth anniversary of the birth of one of the greatest representatives of the Soviet School of organic chemistry and petroleum chemistry, the outstanding Soviet scientist Academician Sergei Semenovich Nametkin.

Nametkin's scientific activity embraced many fields in organic chemistry. He made a major contribution to the development of branches of organic chemistry such as the stereochemistry of alicyclic compounds, the isomerisation of alicyclic hydrocarbons, and the chemistry of poisons, perfumes, and growth substances. Among these investigations, particular mention should be made of his research in the field of terpenes and camphor homologues, in the first place his discovery of the camphene rearrangement of the second kind, which has come to be called the "Nametkin rearrangement"—the greatest discovery in the chemistry of camphor and its derivatives. Nametkin's classical studies in this field have been of great theoretical importance and gained him world renown. They made it possible to determine very complex mechanisms of intramolecular transformations in the series of camphor derivatives.

Nametkin's fundamental research on the chemistry and chemical engineering of petroleum occupy a special place in his scientific career. He is justly regarded as the founder of the chemistry of petroleum as an independent scientific discipline. Nametkin is one of the pioneers in the field of the chemical processing of petroleum, who solved many complex scientific and technical problems. His research on petroleum, on the creation of the scientific foundations of petrochemistry, has made an enormous contribution not only to science but also to fields important for the national economy such as the petroleum processing and petrochemical industries.

Nametkin's monograph "Khimiya Nefti" (The Chemistry of Petroleum) still remains the most important textbook on this subject. In this book, which has served as a manual for many thousands of workers in the field of petroleum and petrochemicals, Nametkin formulated clearly for the first time the tasks of petrochemistry as a science aiming to solve the problems of the "conversion' of hydrocarbons into chemically more valuable products.

The vigorous development of petrochemistry and the petrochemical industry at the present stage confirms the validity of Nametkin's prediction of the enormous importance of the chemical transformations of hydrocarbons into products of value for the national economy. Nametkin founded a scientific school and his pupils are successfully developing his rich legacy in various fields of organic chemistry.

Nametkin's entire life is an example of selfless service to science and the Motherland.