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Aleksei Mikhailovic Sladkov
2 August 1922-28 September 1982



Professor A.M.Sladkov, doctor of chemical sciences, assistant editor-in-chief of the journal "Uspekhi Khimii", and superintendent of the laboratories at the Nesmeyanov Institute of Element-organic Compounds of the USSR Academy of Sciences, died unexpectedly on the 28 September 1982.

Sladkov had actively contributed to the success of this journal for almost twenty-five years, first as its national secretary and then as assistant editor-in-chief. He had an unusually deep scientific erudition, and he could apply it in any area of chemical science. He made important contributions to the development of organic, element-organic, and polymer chemistry. His dedication, loyalty, and hard work helped to keep the journal "Uspekhi Khimii" abreast of the rapid developments in chemical science made in the Soviet Union in the last 25 years.

Aleksei Mikhailovich Sladkov was a distinguished scientist. During 25 years his scientific activity was centred in the Nesmeyanov Institute of Element-organic Compounds of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and throughout this period his work had a pioneering character. He carried out extensive researches on the use of ethylene and propylene in organic synthesis, on the auto-oxidation of the alkyl derivatives of benzene, and on the synthesis of higher alcohols by oxidation of aluminium-organic compounds in atmospheric oxygen. His work on acetylene chemistry became widely known, including the acetylene derivatives of germanium, silicon, copper, and silver, and it led to the discovery of some interesting new reactions: the condensation of copper organo-acetylides with aryl and vinyl halides (the Sladkov–Castro reaction), the condensation of silver organo-acetylides with diazonium salts, the thermal dehydropolycondensation of *bis*-ethynylsilanes, the oxidative dehydropolycondensation of acetylene compounds, and the preparation of a new allotropic form of carbon—carbyne—which was registered as an invention.

Sladkov published almost 250 scientific papers and more than 50 patent applications.

His contribution to scientific management was also wide-ranging and substantial: he was a member of the scientific committee on organic semiconductors and a member of the commission responsible for the award of the Butlerov prize at the Praesidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences, he served on several other scientific committees, and he was one of the coordinators of the topic "Polymers in Medicine" in international cooperation with other socialist countries.

The life of Aleksei Mikhailovich Sladkov was a shining example of self-denying service to science. The memory of this distinguished scientist and gentle human being will live long in our hearts.

The Editorial Board and the
Editor's office of the Journal
"Uspekhi Khimii"