Professor Dieška—an appreciation

Professor Dionýz Dieška, M.D., Dr.Sc., Dean of Postgraduate Medical School and Chairman of Internal Medicine, Bratislava, celebrated his sixtieth birthday in July

Whether lecturing to trainees, presiding at the Scientific Council, presenting a haematological paper, or examining candidates, Professor Dionýz Dieška is always complete master of the situation.

He was born in Slovakia on July 27, 1914, and was a distinguished student, both in the academic field and as an active sportsman. He began his medical career as a resident and then First Assistant to Academician Dérer at the Clinic of Medicine of the RSP Hospital in Bratislava, spending many years of intensive and thorough training in the specialty of internal medicine.

He became Head of the Department of Internal Medicine at the District Hospital in Trenčín and, in 1953, organized the Postgraduate Medical Teaching Centre, thus creating the first nucleus of the future Slovakian Postgraduate Medical School. He personally trained young doctors and also devoted much of his efforts to organizing postgraduate education. Since 1953 he has organized regular postgraduate courses in Slovakia—something new in Slovakian medicine.

The growth of the Czechoslovakian State Health Service necessitated an increasing number of specialists. This was quickly comprehended by the Ministry of Health in Bratislava and the vigorous efforts made to meet the need were crowned with success. On January 1, 1957, the Slovak Postgraduate Medical School was founded in Trenčín, and Dionýz Dieška became Dean of the School. While working as Head of the Department of Medicine, he also established a number of Chairs for the basic specialties and Sub-Chairs for more specialized branches of medicine. He introduced, step by step, a modern system of postgraduate education, developing a wide range of courses in basic sciences and specialities, some cyclical and some residential. In order to do this, he visited and studied the systems in the USSR, England, Poland, Germany, Holland and the Scandinavian countries. The need for a postgraduate medical journal was met by Lékársky Obzor (Medical Horizon), published under the auspices of the Ministry of Health in Bratislava. Professor Dieška became a member of the Editorial Board.

In 1966–67, the Postgraduate Medical School moved to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, into the new medical district of Kramáre. Professor Dieška was the most active member of the group which did the spade work of the newly built Postgraduate Medical School (Fig. 1) with a modern hostel for 260 trainees. Simultaneously, the Academician Dérer’s Hospital of more than 800 beds was built as a clinical base for the Postgraduate Medical School. Professor Dieška was appointed Chairman and Head of the Clinic of Internal Medicine and again devoted his admirable efforts to the expansion and consolidation of the Slovak postgraduate training system. The number of Chairs increased and the number of courses reached about ninety 2-week to 3-month courses yearly, involving about 2000 trainees. At present, every year approximately 850 doctors and 100 pharmacists are awarded diplomas of specialization, a praiseworthy number for a nation of over 4 m Slovaks. Postgraduate education has made a significant contribution for more than 20 years to raising the overall professional standards in the National Health Service of Czechoslovakia.

Professor Dieška is also a recognized authority on haematology, with a long list of nearly 80 scientific articles in medical journals. He was promoted to Professor after his doctoral work (Dr. Sc.). His clinical monograph Málokrvnost (Anaemia) is a most comprehensive textbook for Czechoslovakian physicians. He was a co-author and editor of Vnútorne choroby (Internal Diseases) in 4 volumes and was the Chief-Editor of Vademecum Medici.

The Professor belongs to numerous honorary, medical and scientific institutions. He is a member of the Committee of the Scientific Council of the Ministry of Health, a member of the Committee of Purkyne Czechoslovak Medical Society, a member of the Central Committee of the Slovak Society of Physicians, and President of the Slovak Society of Internal Medicine.

Professor Dieška was awarded high state honours by the Czechoslovak Government. He and his wife live near the Postgraduate Medical School. His hobbies include first of all a passionate love of shooting. He is an avid reader and a couple of years ago was still often seen playing lawn-tennis. His two sons, Ivan and Peter, are outstanding Czechoslovakian mountain-climbers. Celebrating his sixtieth
birthday in July, he can look back with pride and pleasure on what he has built, and on the wide staff of co-workers whom he is guiding today. All Czecho-
slovakian doctors, but especially all workers of the Postgraduate Medical School in Bratislava and the members of the Slovak Society of Internal Medicine, have chosen this occasion to pay tribute to Professor Dieška for his many achievements and his meri-
torious pioneer work in postgraduate education. His life’s work, the Slovak Postgraduate Medical School in Bratislava, is a constant reminder of his greatness.

![Image of Postgraduate Medical School in Bratislava](attachment:image.jpg)

**Fig. 1.** Postgraduate Medical School in Bratislava (with the hostel).