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ACTIVITIES OF THE HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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FOREWORD

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Following is the translation of an article entitled "A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia életéből" (English version above) in Magyar Tudomány (Hungarian Science), Vol V, No 9, Budapest, 1960, pages 551-552.

The Board of the Hungarian Scientific Academy (HSA) modified the academic prize system in its May 27 meeting. The modification specifies the basis for prizes in detail. It also regulates the manner of giving the prizes and puts them on a systematic timetable. In the future, the Academy will award four types of prizes:

1. "Academic Prizes" will be given to those scientific workers who did outstanding work in their various institutions' scientific fields.
2. Academic competition will be an important means in achieving success in fields and institutions which are outside the Academy, but whose development is regarded important by the Academy.
3. "Presidential Prize" will be given to those scientists who did outstanding organizational or directoral work in the various research institutions (whether they belong to the Academy or not). A smaller amount of the "Presidential Prize" budget will go to workers who did excellent work in science but whose work does not come up to the level of the "Academic Prize".
4. Since regular and corresponding members of the Academy are outside of the above prizes, they can be rewarded by a yearly Gold Medal which is accompanied by 15000 Fts.

The Presidential Council discussed the informational work done by the Academy in its June 17 meeting. The transfer of the science of gerontology and of the Committee of Gerontology from the Biology Group to the Class of Biological and Medical Sciences was approved.

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The Board dealt with the length of publications in

its June 24 meeting.

Discussion on the work being done and state of affairs in general at the Central Physics Research Institute, Theoretical Physics Research Group and the Historical Institute was also on the agenda.

The Board dealt with the training of psychologists in Hungary. The Plan of the Book-and Journal Publishing of the Academy was discussed.

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István Ruzsnyák, President of the HSA, represented the Academy at the festivities organized by the Royal Society at its three-hundredth anniversary in London between July 18 and 26 of this year.

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Erik Molnár, academician, delivered a speech on "The Minority Problem" on June 27th.

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The President of the North Korean Scientific Academy, Pok Nam Un, academician, sent to the HSA the April 27, 1960, a resolution of the meeting of the Korean political parties and social organizations. The resolution demands the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea; the liquidation of the terrorist regime of Syngman Rhee; the formation of a new South Korean government representing every segment of the South Korean society; the annulment of laws designed to suppress the people; democratic civil rights; the end of squalor; general elections, and the end of the artificial wall between the two parts of Korea.

The HSA discussed the resolution and repeatedly expressed its sympathy for the fight for freedom in South Korea.

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The Class of Linguistics and Literature discussed the Five Year Plan of the book and journal publication of the Class and continued the preparation of the International Finn-Ugor Congress (to be held this September).

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The Class of Mathematical Sciences and of Physics at its June 16 meeting resolved to reorganize the committees within the Class, and discussed the investment needs of the Institutes of the Class in 1961.

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The Class of Biological Sciences and of Medicine on its June 29 meeting dealt with the newly organized or recently vacated professorial Chairs. They also discussed the book- and journal publishing plans of the Class for 1961 and later years.

Anatal Babics, Secretary of the Class, communicated

the suggestion of the Medical History Committee regarding a Five-year sculpture competition. Mr. Babics then dealt with the financial situation of the Debrecen Medical School, whose Institutes receive support from the Academy.

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The Organic Chemical Technology Committee, which is an organization within the Class of Chemical Sciences, held a joint meeting with the Organic Chemical Committee. The meeting dealt with plastics research. The Secretary of the Committee reported on the work done so far. The meeting dealt in detail with the data obtained in the research work and with suggestions of new projects. A more compact instrument (perhaps a Subcommittee) is needed to hold together the projects dealing with the theoretical problems of organic chemistry, the meeting suggested. The meeting also dealt with the training of scientists in the plastics research field.

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The Biological Group held a meeting on Jun3 23rd. The meeting dealt with the organizational and scientific problems of the Botanical Research Institute, and with the evaluation of foreign trips of this year.

The June 24th meeting was devoted to the report of the Secretary of the Group which illuminated the work done in the past quarter and outlined future projects.

A suggestion was made to work out coordinated projects with other nations in 1961. The co-ordinated work with scientists of other nations (in 1960) was discussed.