

PREFACE

It is indeed a delight and a pleasure for me to express my congratulations to Professor Kametani on the occasion of publication of this special commemorative issue of HETEROCYCLES in his honour.

Our friendship was initiated in 1943, when he decided to work with me for one year as an undergraduate student before graduation from the University of Tokyo. The following year he got a job at Tokyo Pharmaceutical College and a few years later moved to the Pharmaceutical Department, Osaka University, as an Assistant Professor. In 1959, when the Pharmaceutical Department was newly established in Tohoku University, he went to Sendai. He was elected to one of its chairs as a Professor of Tohoku University, and this was the real start of his brilliant career as both an excellent teacher and researcher. During the twenty odd years since then his scientific papers, published in a variety of authenticated scientific journals — both foreign and domestic, have totaled the incredible number of over eight hundred. They are mostly related to synthesis in a wide area of organic chemistry, including alkaloids, terpenes, steroids and antibiotics, to mention only a few. I regret that it is beyond my ability to even briefly outline his work here at this time. Suffice it to say that he indeed deserved to receive his numerous awards and prizes, beginning with the "Academy Prize of the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan" in 1969, and culminating in receipt of the "Award of the Japan Academy" for his unique work on "Retro Mass Spectrometry and Retro Mass Spectral Synthesis", and the "Fujihara Award" in 1980.

He is by no means robust, but is a rather slim man. I have always wondered how he could maintain such superhuman vitality and vigour in his work. Thus, his health was and will continue to be my great concern. As a matter of fact, he quite recently suffered from a rather severe stomach ulcer. Fortunately, however, he somehow managed to recover by favour of the doctors' pertinent treatment and the devoted care of Mrs. Kametani, though I do not think he was a willing or very obedient patient during his hospitalization.

He is now going to start his second life, on retiring at the end of March 1981, after twenty odd years of brilliant service.

It is my sincere wish that he will continue his research life, but with an easier attitude than before, and that he will try to find some spare time in order to pursue healthy open-air hobbies. Thus with temperance, I believe that he will be able to enjoy his healthy second life for years and years to come.

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