

oceans of this planet," "within the deep core of the earth," "in the arctic and antarctic areas," "throughout the troposphere," "in space," etc., etc.]. Your Committee estimates that roughly one hundred million dollars will be needed for initial capital facilities, including \$850,000 for architects' fees, plus annual operating sums of ten to thirty million dollars [these estimates are necessarily preliminary—that is, too small].

In conclusion, it may usefully be remarked that when the Summary Report of the Special Committee is transmitted by operating officers to their governing boards, it is traditional to make some such statement as: "It will be

recognized at once that the members of the Special Committee which rendered this admirable and challenging report are scientists of the highest standing, with broad and impressive experience. As the leading experts in the field *X*, the competence of their judgments on this topic cannot be challenged. It seems difficult indeed to see how we can afford to disregard their firm and constructive recommendations."

As a final note of caution, it should perhaps be pointed out that this procedure of concentrating attention on one single field, and utilizing the advice

of those already committed to it, does have its complications. If one permits oneself to fall in love, one at a time, with a sequence of individually glamorous ladies, it is difficult to avoid multiple bigamy.

In addition to those who quite naturally consider *X* to be of first priority, there are equally competent groups who would assign the same top priority to *A, B, C, . . . Z*. If there is, in fact, a finite and limited amount of money available nationally for science, who is it that sits down on a hard chair and soberly weighs the alternatives? Is there a Special Committee for this?

V. Korenchevsky, Father of Gerontology

V. Korenchevsky's life was a gift from Russia to humanity of far-reaching consequences. He was the pioneer in the investigation of the problems of aging which have now grown to be of such gigantic proportions.

In 1880 he was born in Lida, Russia. It was apparently from his mother that he inherited his fighting qualities. He graduated from the Imperial Medical Academy in Petrograd in 1903. After having served as head of a military chemicobacteriological laboratory in Manchuria during the Russo-Japanese War, he visited in 1906 a Russian infirmary for old people in Moscow. He was appalled by their premature and abnormal aging. He tried to estimate the human wastage by comparing these unfortunates with others who enjoyed healthier, more useful, and longer lives. He pictured to himself what they might have been. His life during the next 53 years was one of striving somehow to discover how people can best be enabled to realize their full potentialities in their later years.

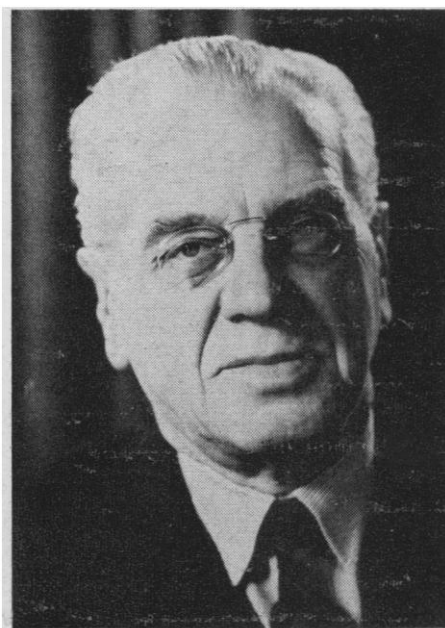
But after the Russo-Japanese War life for him became very unsettled. He worked, however, toward his goal, with Mechnikov in Paris on gastrointestinal autointoxication and with Pavlov in the

Institute of Experimental Medicine in Petrograd, where he was appointed professor of experimental pathology in 1911. He devoted himself mainly to the effects of sex and thyroid hormones on somatic organs and their functions. He was obviously bringing to bear on the problems of aging the rapidly developing science of endocrinology when he was suddenly condemned to "liquidation" in 1919. He escaped to the White Army, fighting in Southern Russia; after the defeat of this army he emigrated to Britain and became a naturalized British subject.

In Britain Korenchevsky continued his important investigations in the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine in London, in a special laboratory provided for him in Oxford, and in the department of physiology of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School in London until his retirement in 1952 at the age of 72. He soon discovered that the sex hormones have manifold effects on somatic tissues and probably on the processes of aging. He investigated antagonistic hormones and their actions, the accelerating effects of gonadectomy on aging, and the antiaging properties of androsterone and testosterone propionate. Above all he tried, with some

success, to devise objective tests for the processes of aging. His was a dynamic personality. He attracted people to work with him, and he helped them enormously. His view expanded into an appreciation of gerontology as a super-science depending on the basic sciences of anatomy, pathology, physiology, biology, biochemistry, psychology, sociology, and others, and he distinguished gerontology sharply from geriatrics, which is the general practice of medicine with old people, just as pediatrics is the general practice of medicine with young people.

Korenchevsky's greatest service to humanity was in the world-wide promotion of gerontology. In this he received much assistance from perhaps the greatest of Britain's millionaire phil-



V. Korenchevsky

anthropists, Lord Nuffield, and Korenchevsky probably encouraged Lord Nuffield to advise his Foundation to enter this field. Exactly how this friendship and teamwork started I do not know, but I have observed the two men together in conference, and I have taken a small part in the discussions. I think that it was for Lord Nuffield that Korenchevsky compiled and had printed the first world list of gerontological societies and their members. His was the organizing drive behind the First International Gerontological Congress in 1950. On the invitation of L. Brull, this was held in Liège, and Brull served as first president. Members of the congress were the gerontological societies mobilized by Korenchevsky, together with some additional ones. All those present at the congress unanimously voted Korenchevsky the most important posts they could think of, which were life member of the governing body and founder of the International Association of Gerontology. He became in truth "the father of gerontology," not simply in Britain but in the whole world.

Korenchevsky retired from active work in his laboratory in 1952 and thereafter devoted himself entirely to the promotion of gerontological research everywhere and to the writing of his book. This advancement of gerontological research involved three trips to the United States and much traveling and correspondence in Europe. He attended the second congress, in St. Louis, in 1951 and the third congress, in London, in 1954. He was unable, much to the disappointment of his followers, to participate in the fourth congress, in Merano, Italy, in 1957.

His book, entitled *Physiological and Pathological Aging*, is really a summarization of his whole life's work in this field. It reveals the great gap between physiological, or normal, aging under the best possible conditions and the terrible state of pathological aging under very adverse conditions which attracted his notice back in 1906. Like his close associate Anton J. Carlson, he believed that there is no other domain of human knowledge in which application to human welfare lags so

far behind discovery. The book has been completed and it awaits publication.

Korenchevsky's married life was a very happy one and endured for 52 years. Rose-growing was his hobby. He used to say that each flower was like a patient needing special attention. In his meditations he could have had the satisfaction of feeling that he had fathered developing gerontology through its graduation as a science. He left to others the task of assisting the young science to gain stature and recognition so that, before long, it will be included in its own right by universities among their scientific departments.

In his later days Korenchevsky was troubled by angina pectoris; the attacks became more frequent and severe, and he finally died, suddenly, painlessly, and mercifully, on 9 July 1959. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

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Science in the News

House Committee on Un-American Activities Continues to Investigate Education

The House Committee on Un-American Activities is showing a continuing concern for American education. Recent action in two major cases is receiving the attention of the academic community. The Supreme Court refused a rehearing for Lloyd Barenblatt, former psychology instructor at Vassar College who was convicted of contempt of Congress because he would not discuss with congressional investigators an accusation that he had once been a Communist.

One hundred and ten California school teachers were subpoenaed by the House Committee for questioning about their possible Communist affiliations.

The Barenblatt Case

Lloyd Barenblatt was teaching psychology at Vassar College when he received a summons to appear before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in May 1954. A month later his 4-year contract at Vassar expired and was not renewed. At the committee hearings, an acknowledged former Communist reported that Barenblatt had been a member of the Communist Party

while he was a graduate student at the University of Michigan. Barenblatt, on First Amendment grounds, refused to discuss the witness's testimony, arguing that however he answered questions relating to membership in the Communist Party, his position in society and his ability to earn a living would be seriously jeopardized. He pointed out, further, that this would occur even if he did no more than invoke the protection of the Bill of Rights.

He was convicted of contempt of Congress, which led to a \$250 fine and a 6-month prison sentence. Last June the Supreme Court upheld the conviction in a 5-4 decision, and on 12 October a petition for rehearing was rejected. Barenblatt surrendered to District of Columbia authorities on 10 November and is now in the D.C. jail.

The American Civil Liberties Union conducted Barenblatt's case, as it has a number of similar ones, in an effort to test the constitutionality of the House Committee's activities.

Balancing Doctrine Questioned

In the decision last June, the Supreme Court ruled that legislative investiga-