

OBITUARY

JOSE MARIA ALBAREDA HERRERA

(1902–1966)

Jose Maria Albareda Herrera was born in Caspe (Zaragoza) on the 15th of April 1902 and died in Madrid on the 27th of March 1966. He studied at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Madrid and the Faculty of Chemical Sciences of the University of Zaragoza, becoming a Doctor of the Faculty of Pharmacy in 1927, and a Doctor of the Faculty of Sciences in 1931. In the years 1926–28 he worked at the Institute for Chemistry of Zaragoza and in 1928 became Professor of Agriculture of the Institute of Huesca. From 1928 to 1929 he worked at the Institut für Chemie der Land. Hochschule in Bonn with Professor Kappen and from 1929 to 1930 at the Agriculturchemisches Laboratorium of the Eidg. Tech. Hochschule in Zürich with Professor Wiegner and at the Pflanzenbau-Institut of the University of Königsberg with Professor Mitscherlich. He obtained a scholarship of the 'Ramsay' Foundation from the Royal Academy of Science in 1932 and worked for two years at Rothamsted Experimental Station, at Bangor and Aberdeen. He was appointed Secretary General of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (Higher Council for Scientific Research), a charge he was still holding at his death. In 1940 he was appointed to the Chair of Mineralogy and Zoology of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Madrid, which he held until 1960. In 1942 he founded, and was appointed Director of the Instituto de Edafologia y Fisiologia Vegetal (Institute for Soil Science and Plant Physiology) of the C.S. de I.C., a charge he also held until his death.

In 1953 he was named Doctor Honoris Causa of the Catholic University of Lovaina and in 1955 received the same degree from the University of Toulouse. In 1960 he was appointed Rector Magnifico of the Estudio General de Navarra. He was an Academician of the Royal Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences of Madrid (1941), of the Royal Academy of Pharmacy of Madrid (1941) and of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Madrid (1952). He was also a corresponding academician of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Barcelona (1948) and of the Academy of Exact and Physico-Chemical Sciences of Zaragoza (1948). That same year he was named Academician of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in Rome. In 1964 he became Academician of the Academy of Agriculture of France. He was a member of many national as well as foreign scientific societies and was awarded several national and foreign decorations.

His publications, comprising five books and over 150 papers, were the result of his untiring effort and it is fundamentally to Albareda that we owe the organization of research work in Spain. The founding of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas was his idea and he contributed to its development for twenty-five years. Only a mind with great rapidity of conception and an extraordinary capacity to understand problems and plan research could have accomplished so

much. For all of us it is a special responsibility to continue his work without his guidance.

Undoubtedly the scientific research work carried out by Professor Albareda has been extraordinary, but we would be unfair if we did not add some words about the man himself. The 21 years we have been together allow us to recognize the spiritual qualities of a man who devoted his life to the progress of science. Personally he fulfilled the Counsels of the Gospel to the full extent, always rendering good for bad, never showing resentment when he was not understood. Although this brought him many sorrows, he accepted them without complaint. The loss we feel with his departure will leave a void in the hearts of all those who knew him.

V. HERNANDO