

OBITUARY

PROF. DR. MANUEL MUÑOZ TABOADELA (1917-1963)

On 27th March, 1963, the Professor of Applied Geology at the University of Santiago de Compostela and Director of the Centro de Edafología y Biología Vegetal of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (C.S.I.C.), Dr. Manuel Muñoz Taboadela, died in Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain.

Dr. Muñoz Taboadela was born in Lillo, Toledo, on 17th May, 1917. He studied pharmacy and received the Extraordinary Prize for his Licentiate degree. In 1944 he became a Bursar of the C.S.I.C., and in 1948 his doctorate thesis on "Total manganese in relation to the colour of Andalusian Black Earths" also gained for him the Extraordinary Prize. In 1950 he became a Scientific Collaborator of the Consejo at the Instituto de Edafología y Fisiología Vegetal, Madrid, and in 1953 he was appointed to the Chair of Applied Geology in the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Santiago de Compostela. In 1955 he founded, and has since been Director of, the Centro de Edafología y Biología Vegetal in that city—this centre being a branch of the National Institute of Pedology and Agrobiology of the C.S.I.C.

In 1950 he was given a grant by the C.S.I.C. to study for a year at the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, Aberdeen. His stay at this Institute was particularly useful in establishing close connections between Scottish and Galician agriculture; it is interesting that there are many similarities in conditions in these two localities. Later he was given a grant to visit research centres in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

His research work was published in both Spanish and foreign journals and his ability and familiarity with the techniques of clay mineralogy led to his being chosen, along with Dr. Alexandre, to compile a chapter dealing with micas in the "Differential Thermal Investigation of Clays," published by the Clay Minerals Group of the Mineralogical Society. Not only was Dr. Muñoz Taboadela devoted to his scientific research, but he was also exceptionally well qualified as a teacher and built up a very active school which will continue his work. His friendliness and lack of affectation gained him a wide circle of friends both at home and abroad, and he will be sadly missed.

J. M. ALBAREDA.