

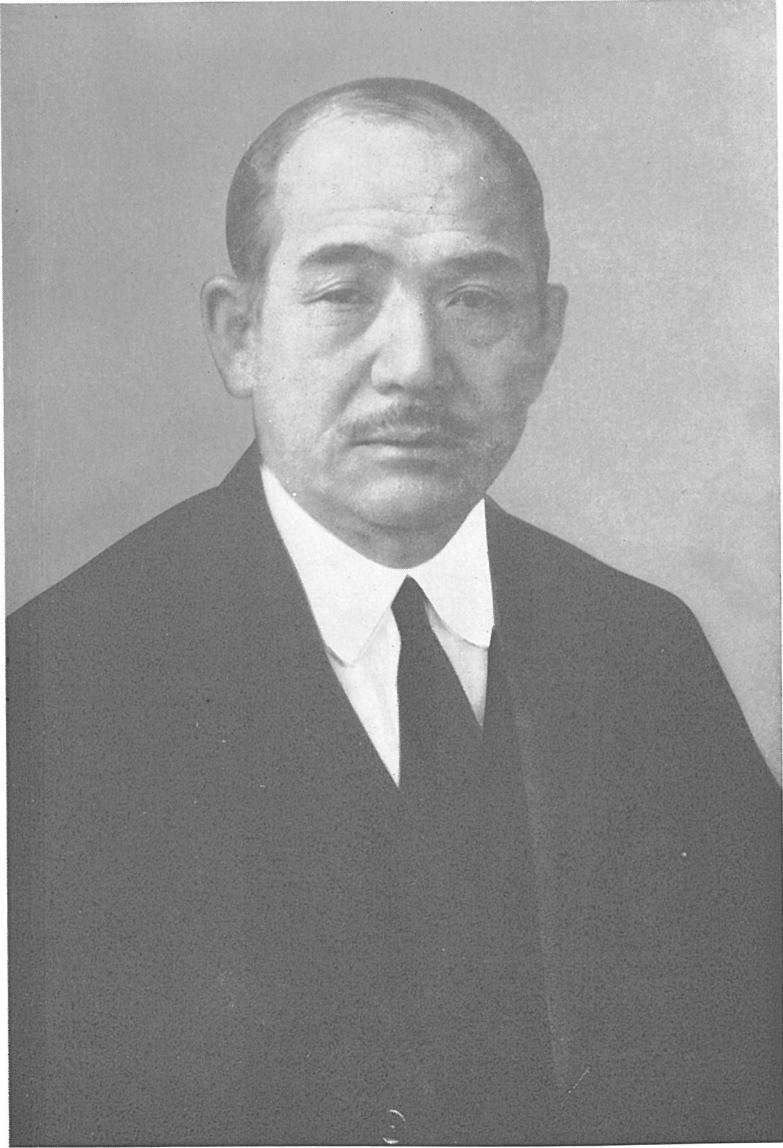


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SADAO YOSHIDA
(1878—1964)

IN MEMORIAM

SADAO YOSHIDA, 1878-1964

Dr. Sadao Yoshida, Emeritus Professor of Osaka University, one of the founders of the Research Institute for Microbial Diseases of Osaka University, and Head of the Department of Parasitology of this Institute until his retirement in March, 1939, passed away on April 15, 1964. He was 85 years of age.

Born in a small country town in Fukuoka Prefecture on October 26, 1878, the late Dr. Yoshida entered Tokyo High Normal School in 1898 and studied natural history.

In 1902, he graduated from the school and taught in a middle school in the city of Wakayama. In the following year (1903), he again went to Tokyo to continue his studies, entering the selective course of the Department of Zoology, of the Faculty of Science of Tokyo Imperial University.

For his graduation thesis he studied one species of *Cestoda*, under the guidance of Prof. Isao Iijima. This, indeed, marked his first step as a parasitologist. After graduation in 1906, he continued research on cestodes, as a post graduate student.

In 1909, he became a lecturer at Hiroshima High Normal School. In 1912, he returned to Tokyo to continue his studies at Tokyo Imperial University.

In 1914, when he was 36 years old, he was appointed instructor at Osaka Prefectural High Medical School, which later became the present Osaka University Medical School. In the following year, 1915, this school received the status of Osaka Prefectural Medical College and Dr. Yoshida was named professor of the college, giving lectures on zoology for students in the preparatory course, and on parasitology for those in the university course.

In 1918, he received the degree of Doctor of Science, and was awarded the golden medal and prize in commemoration of the late Prof. Asakawa.

In 1919, he studied under Prof. Ward, as courtesy fellow of Illinois State University, and was elected a member of the *Sigma Xi* Society in the Illinois Chapter. Then, he visited various universities in Europe, returning home in 1921. Early in 1920, he was awarded a golden medal and prize from the Institute and Hospital for Seamen and Tropical Diseases in Kobe.

During many subsequent years, Dr. Yoshida, as a Professor of Osaka Medical College, devoted himself to lecturing and research.

In 1934, the Research Institute for Microbial Diseases was set up in Osaka Imperial University, and he was appointed Professor of this university and concurrently Head of the Department of Parasitology of this Institute. Thus, he became one of the founders of this Institute and labored unceasingly for its healthy and steady expansion and growth.

In 1939, he reached the retirement age. Until 1943, however, he remained

on the staff of the Institute as a non-regular member, devoting himself to this research.

In 1947, he became a lecturer of the Premedical Course of Osaka Municipal Medical College, and in 1950, became a lecturer of the same college, giving lectures on parasitology as well as directing parasitological research. In 1949, he was made Doctor of Medicine, and, in 1953, was honored with the title of Professor Emeritus of Osaka University.

In 1955, he was appointed a lecturer of the Department of Medicine of Osaka City University. In the same year, however, he suffered from a cerebral haemorrhage and became confined to bed. He was thus deprived of physical strength and lived as an invalid, being unable to walk. In 1956, he retired from being lecturer of Osaka City University Medical School. He was given the status of non-regular lecturer.

In 1962, he was awarded the Health Culture Prize from the Ministry of Welfare in recognition of his many years of work on preventive medicine.

He died on April 15, 1964.

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Prof. Isao Iijima, the late Dr. Yoshida's teacher, studied under Prof. R. Leuckart of Leipzig University, who was regarded as the world's foremost scholar on parasitology. After returning home, Prof. Iijima virtually founded the Science of Parasitology in Japan. Among the students he taught and guided there were a number of leading parasitologists. Dr. Yoshida, together with Dr. Makoto Koizumi and Dr. Harujiro Kobayashi, were among the most prominent parasitologists in Japan in this early period.

Dr. Yoshida's work covers the entire range of parasitic helminths of vertebrates. Starting his researches with a study of *Cestoda* treated in his graduation thesis, he gradually extended his work to all the subclass *Cestoda*, and, thus, he eventually had the honor of being accepted as the founder and pioneer of tape worm research in Japan.

He had the distinction of making new discoveries about *Trematoda* in connection with a second intermediate host for the human lung fluke. He also did much work on parasitic trematodes of animals and fishes.

However, in regard to *Nematoda*, the late Dr. Yoshida is responsible for a number of laudable scholastic achievements related to *Ascaris lumbricoides* and *Gnathostoma nipponicum*.

The most brilliant achievement credited to the late Dr. Yoshida during his long years of scholastic devotion, however, was his discovery in 1917 of the fact that *Ascaris lumbricoides* could not become adult unless, in the larval stage, it passed through the human lung.

This discovery shattered the theory, expounded by C. J. Davaine and believed for the preceding half century, that a larva from the embryonated egg would grow into an adult directly, in the intestines. It was an epoch-making discovery which served to introduce the conception of migration of some kinds of human parasites

inside the human body during their larval development.

His paper on this particular subject was published in 1917, when it was found that a British naval surgeon, F. H. Stewart, in Hongkong had published a similar discovery in the preceding year, 1916. The scholars of the world, however, were convinced that Dr. Yoshida had conducted his study quite independently of Stewart, and, thus, the discovery of the migration pathway through the lung of *Ascaris lumbricoides* was ascribed to both Stewart and Yoshida.

The various prizes which Dr. Yoshida received were chiefly for this particular discovery. This scholastic achievement on ascarids by Yoshida is again receiving close attention now from the view point of *visceral larva migrans*, a center of interest of world parasitologists. Thus, it should be emphasized that his achievement is being very highly appreciated.

Besides more than 150 published papers, the late Dr. Yoshida published many books on parasitology and zoology, including a number of text for middle and high schools. In addition, he displayed a wide range of activities as leader of various organizations formed mainly by primary and middle school teachers specializing in sciences and, in the specific field of scientific education Dr. Yoshida is credited with numerous material contributions.

After the second World War, the late Dr. Yoshida was deeply concerned with the control of ascariasis and the other human helminthiasis, and devoted himself to this work with zeal and fervor.

Outstanding also were the contributions rendered by the late Dr. Yoshida as committee member and later President of the Japanese Society of Parasitology and also the Japanese Society of Zoology, for their management and growth.

The present writer, upon receipt of the news of Dr. Yoshida's death volunteered to write this paper in remembrance of Dr. Yoshida's outstanding scholastic achievements and gentle and modest personality, and with very deep grief over the great irretrievable loss of his passing.

Shozo Inoki