

[Editorial]

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On July 28th, 1969 we commemorate the ninetieth anniversary of the birthday of I. A. Bláha, the first professor of sociology at the Philosophical Faculty of the newly founded Masaryk University of Brno and the founder of its Sociological Department. When sixty years old, Professor Bláha had already accomplished such an extensive and valuable work in sociology, that a volume of studies in his honour (Pocta In. Arn. Bláhovi, Brno 1939) could be published. In its first part it presented an all-round evaluation by Czech scientists of I. A. Bláha's contributions to various fields of sociology, both general and special; its second part contained tributes of foreign outstanding sociologists (E. E. Eubank, G. L. Duprat, D. Gusti, A. Niceforo, P. E. Sorokin, F. Znaniecki and others) in papers on individually chosen subjects. Another volume of sociological papers was prepared in honour of Professor Bláha on the occasion of his seventieth birthday, but the official attitude denying sociology the status of science, in our country, prevented its publication. The circumstances were not different in 1959, when Professor Bláha was eighty and received a small volume of typewritten recollections and tributes to his work and personality — as scientist, teacher and man — from his friends und pupils.

*The present volume appears, fortunately, after the revival of sociology in our country, but after Professor Bláha's death (on April 25, 1960) and also after the posthumous publication of his *Sociologie* (Sociology) in 1968. This work of his, intended as a text-book for students of sociology, represents, at the same time, the results of his life's work in sociology. Thus, with the exception of his general sociological theory, which is elaborated there in a more detailed manner and pays a considerable attention to the dynamics of social life, Professor Bláha's *Sociologie* does not bring forth important new traits, which would not have been contained in his previous work and evaluated in the Volume of 1939. Accordingly, the present contributions of his friends and pupils deal either with the above two problems (general sociological theory and social dynamics) or with problems of their own disclosing explicitly or implicitly the influence of Professor Bláha's sociological thought. The only paper in applied sociology (on the work of UNO experts) may exemplify Professor Bláha's emphasis on the importance of sociological knowledge in everyday life.*

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