

SARTON MEDAL LECTURES

LAUDATIO CONSTANT HUYGELEN

Jos Hoorens

The members of the Sarton Committee, on the proposal of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, have elected Dr. Huygelen as a recipient of the George Sarton Medal and diploma for the academic year 1996-1997. It is my pleasure to introduce my colleague and friend to this audience.

Dr. Constant (Stan) Huygelen was born in Aartselaar on the 8th of October, 1929. He obtained his doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1954 at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Ghent. During the following year he studied tropical medicine at the Institute of Tropical Medicine at Antwerp.

From 1955 till 1960 he worked in the former Belgian Congo (Zaire), initially as State Veterinarian at Elisabethstad and Luapula-Moero, later as Head of the virology department of the Veterinary Laboratory of Astrida (Butare), Rwanda.

He returned to Belgium in 1960 and became researcher in the pharmaceutical industry : R.I.T. and SmithKline-R.I.T.. During more than thirty years Dr. Huygelen was involved in the research, development, production, and control of vaccines, both for human and veterinary use. At the end of his career he was Director-General of SmithKline Beecham Biologicals where he was involved mainly in the production of vaccines against polio, rubella and hepatitis A and B as well as poultry (Marek) and cattle vaccines (I.B.R.).

Dr. Huygelen is Past-President of the International Association for Biological Standardisation, member of the World Health Organization and expert of the Advisory Panel for Biological Standardisation.

During the academic year 1973-1974 he held the Francqui-chair at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of our University and lectured on "Viral infections and host response". In 1987 he was awarded the "Prix de l'innovation technologique" of the Walloon Region and the "Galenus award" for the development of the hepatitis B vaccine.

Dr. Huygelen is author or co-author of 140 scientific papers, mostly on

vaccinology.

His lifelong interest in the history of medicine prompted him, once time became available, to focus on the historical background of vaccinology, especially in the prepastoral era.

