

PREFACE

I, as the editor of HETEROCYCLES, feel more than happy to see a special issue dedicated to Professor Kyosuke Tsuda to celebrate his 75th birthday.

This auspicious occasion prompts me to look back on the very close personal ties with him, which I have had the privilege of enjoying during the past 40 years.

Both of us are alumni of Urawa High School and he is my senior by 15 years. We first met in 1941 when I, still in the graduating class, called on him at the Laboratory of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Tokyo Imperial University. There I found him fully occupied, as an up-and-coming assistant professor, with studies on chemotherapeutica. It was a serious moment for me as I was preparing to advance to university. He listened kindly and attentively to my questions about possible courses to pursue and then explained his own research work in progress. I was so much attracted by his charming personality, his zeal for science, and his illuminating discussion of a research area he was about to develop that I decided at once to choose pharmaceutical science.

In fact, an impetus from him opened my academic career, which in turn brought me a lifework --- synthetic chemistry, especially in the syntheses of heterocyclic compounds, notably total syntheses of natural products.

The natural products including alkaloids, steroids, poison of pufferfish and microbial metabolites which Professor Tsuda studied with such enthusiasm never cease to captivate those organic chemists who follow him --- just like alpinists jubilant at the sight of snow-capped peaks glowing in the sky yonder! We will therefore continue to devote ourselves to the hard but joyful task of perfecting total syntheses of such products and carrying out other research projects necessary for further progress in organic chemistry.

For more than half a century, Professor Tsuda has indeed been a constant source of inspiration to those countless people who have known him. Now I do hope that there are many more years of happiness ahead for him.


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