Katsuji Inouye. In Memoriam.

We mourn the death of Katsuji Inouye, the eldest of the co-workers of this Journal and one of the most distinguished biochemists of our time, who passed away at his house in Tokyo on the 15th March.

Born sixty eight years ago in Kyoto-Fu, Inouye entered the Tokyo Imperial University as a medical student, graduating four and a half years later. He began then his career as a biochemist in the Kyoto Imperial University by acting as an assistant to Tr. Araki; Next year he was promoted to assistant professor there. Some papers on the formation of lactic acid, on the nucleic acid, etc. were published therefrom.

Afterwards Inouye spent some time in the chemical as well as biochemical Laboratories of Utrecht, Upsala and Heidelberg.

In 1913, he took the University Chair of Biochemistry in Sendai, and occupied it for 25 years until he withdrew therefrom six years ago.

Apart from the early works carried out by himself in the laboratories other than in Sendai, Inouye with pupils, who worked enthusiastically under his inspiration and direction, contributed over two hundred papers to several fields of biochemistry.

It is rather recommendable to prefix his own name to the papers from his laboratory in order to make a true assessment of their value and character. The means and

methods, qualified from originality and exactness, the thorough bibliographical study with sharp critiques, and the style of writing are readily found as wholly alike throughout all the papers.

While the earlier papers appeared in this Journal, the later ones were issued in the Jap. Journal of Med. Sci., Biochemistry, the editorship of which he held from its commencement till his death. In the later period of his researches he wrote essays in Japanese too.

When he came to Sendai, he took soon the privilege of the locality of our school in the Tohoku district, where there are world-known fishing places of whales. As a result, physiology, particularly the chemical matter of whales and allied species, engaging his life-long interest, were investigated extensively and thoroughly.

In his later period of researches his main interest was confined to the biochemistry of copper, such as the significance of copper for sexual phenomena and development of animals and of plants, the close relation of blood copper to the formation of melanin, behaviour of blood copper in various kinds of anemia, etc., etc.

Besides these main works, his researches covered also the chemistry of digestive juices, the oxalic acid metabolism, the levulose metabolism, the biochemical matters of infectious anemia in the horse, the mechanism of the formation of phytobezoars, and several other subjects.

Y. Satake,
Editor.