

## PAVLOV'S BEQUEST

to the  
Academic Youth of Soviet Russia

Written just before his death, at the age  
of eighty-seven years, on February 27, 1936.

What can I wish to the youth of my country who devote themselves to science?

Firstly, GRADUALNESS. About this most important condition of fruitful scientific work I never can speak without emotion. Gradualness, gradualness and gradualness. From the very beginning of your work, school yourselves to severe gradualness in the accumulation of knowledge.

Learn the ABC of science before you try to ascend to its summit. Never begin the subsequent without mastering the preceding. Never attempt to screen an insufficiency of knowledge even by the most audacious surmise and hypothesis. Howsoever this soap-bubble will rejoice your eyes by its play, it inevitably will burst and you will have nothing except shame.

But learning, experimenting, observing, try not to stay on the surface of the facts. Do not become the archivists of facts. Try to penetrate to the secret of their occurrence, persistently search for the laws which govern them.

Secondly, MODESTY. Never think that you already know all. However highly you are appraised, always have the courage to say of yourself — I am ignorant.

Do not allow haughtiness to take you in possession. Due to that you will be obstinate where it is necessary to agree, you will refuse useful advice and friendly help, you will lose the standard of objectiveness.

Thirdly, PASSION. Remember that science demands from a man all his life. If you had two lives that would be not enough for you. Be passionate in your work and your searchings.