

DR. DE CHOLNOKY



Grayson Kirk, provost of Columbia University, receiving check from Tibor de Cholnok, M. D. for the establishment of "Hungarian Research Funds".

Approximately four years ago Dr. Tibor de Cholnok, an outstanding surgeon of Hungarian extraction, led a movement of the American Hungarian Federation to set up a Hungarian Department at Columbia University, New York to provide the means for a better understanding of Hungarian Culture, and to preserve it within the scope of American cultural life.

Columbia University agreed to establish such a department, expecting the cooperation of the Hungarian Americans in this country, aiming at an endowment fund of \$500,000. Dr. de Cholnok has collected, preponderantly from his American friends, \$17,000 to date, the groundwork of a Hungarian Research Fund which will in time make it possible for the university to set up a Hungarian Chair and eventually a Hungarian Institute.

It is with rightful pride that we make these statements about Dr. de Cholnok who is a long standing member of Branch 48, New York, and who recently purchased additional insurance from the Verhovay Fraternal Insurance Association. His noble efforts in promoting Hungarian ideals and culture leave us with a deep admiration for this fine and worthy Verhovay member.

Dr. de Cholnok was born in 1904 in Szatmarmémeti, Hungary. After he finished his high school education he entered the world-famous Sorbonne University in Paris, France and received his medical degree in 1926. Returning to Budapest, Hungary he enrolled at the Petar Pazmany University. There he was given another medical degree in 1928. Because of his special interest in surgery, he continued his surgical residency and in 1930 was awarded the degree of surgeon-specialist at the first surgical clinic of Professor Tibor Verebely, with whom he worked for years, after which he received a fellowship to England and America.

The Mayo Clinic, Rochester, New York was the home of Dr. de Cholnok during his American post-graduate studies. He received his licenses to practice in the states of New York in 1933 and in Connecticut in 1940. He has experienced one after another well-deserved citations from his profession. The New York Academy of Medicine, the F.A.C.S., elected him as its fellow, the American Board of Surgery certified him, and the Connecticut State Association of Tumor Clinics have highly re-

garded Dr. de Cholnok's membership in these organizations.

The high points in his medical career are many, a few of which are mentioned here:

The Third International Radiological and Electrotherapy Congress meeting in Paris honored Dr. de Cholnok in 1931 by inviting him to lecture to the members of the congress and assigned to him the task of preparing the nomenclature classifications of this specialty field.

He served on the staff of the Lenox Hill Hospital, the Governor Hospital and the New York State and Stuyvesant Square Hospital.

His appointment in 1934 to the position of associate attending surgeon to the staff of the New York Postgraduate Hospital and Medical School, Columbia University, later New York University. For sixteen years Dr. de Cholnok has served in this capacity, gaining for himself a wide reputation.

As a general surgeon he has served the Doctor's Hospital, University Hospital-Bellevue Medical Center, New York University, Greenwich Hospital, Connecticut.

Dr. de Cholnok's experience goes beyond his actual practice as a surgeon. He is also an outstanding writer, having written several books and numerous articles on surgery. He is no well-known and liked by his colleagues that he frequently lectures to various medical groups. He has lectured at the Atlantic City Cancer Congress as well as other medical meetings in Baltimore, Boston, New York, Providence, San Francisco, Richmond and Washington.

The noted physician's name carries fame not only in America but in foreign lands also. In 1946, by invitation, he addressed the Surgeon's Congress in Mexico City. In 1949 he achieved world-wide recognition when he was invited to the famous Curie Institute to lecture there on his experiences in surgery. In 1950 the Paris University-sponsored Fifth International Cancer Congress listened to two lectures delivered by Dr. de Cholnok, and saw films pertaining to his specialties of facial reconstruction and plastic surgery. Only last year the Pan Pacific Surgical Congress, meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii featured Dr. de Cholnok as one of their lecturers.

The much honored surgeon was also active on the New York State Cancer Committee. He is also a member of the executive committee of

the Connecticut State Association and Tumor Clinic.

To repeat, this prominent specialist's interests are varied.

It was a genuine tour of triumph for Dr. and Mrs. de Cholnok when they made it possible for the University of Budapest Choir, under the direction of Victor Vaszi in 1937, to tour the United States. To this day lovers of fine music recall the grand accomplishments of this splendid group of Hungarian singers.

Another achievement in Dr. de Cholnok's busy career was the sponsorship of the Hungarian Reference Library and the select "Magyar Club" of New York.

Dr. de Cholnok is the only member of foreign extraction of the exclusive Writers and Poets Club of Greenwich, Connecticut, having been elected president of this elite group in 1950. Aside from his surgical and literary pursuits, the ever active doctor finds time—somehow—to take part in Hungarian American public life. He is vice-president of the American-Hungarian Federation and a director of the American Hungarian Relief, Inc., as well as president of the New York chapter, No. 22. Under his guidance this chapter has achieved the most fruitful results in providing relief aid for the unfortunate Hungarians.

Many Americans of other nationality backgrounds long ago reached what the good doctor has been striving for in the interests of his people. Most nationalities already have established departments at universities such as that which Dr. de Cholnok expects to accomplish. For us, however, it is better late than never, and with this thought spurring the determination of our fellow Verhovay member, he is sacrificing very much of his valuable time and money to assure the success of his goal.

