

BORIS IOSIFOVICH KHOTIN (1895–1950)

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B. I. Khotin was born on September 25, 1895, in St. Petersburg (later Leningrad, now St. Petersburg). He acquired his medical and biological education in the Bekhterev Neurological Institute and at medical departments of the universities in Derpt (later Tartu, Estonia), Tomsk and Irkutsk (Siberia). In 1922 he graduated from the Irkutsk University and in 1924 from the Institute of Social Education in Leningrad.

Having taken an interest in problems of comparative psychology, Khotin began to work under Professor Wagner at the Herzen Pedagogical Institute and soon became his assistant. At the same time he worked as a neuropathologist in Professor Astvatsaturov's Clinic of Nervous Diseases and lectured on medicine and biology for working people.

From 1925 to 1935 Khotin was a research worker at the Bekhterev Institute for Brain Research, at first in the Biogenesis Department and later in the Department of Comparative Psychology and Physiology. Here he performed a number of investigations in the field of learning and imitation, using a restructurable maze of his own design.

Aiming at the studying of instincts and habits of animals in natural conditions, Khotin organized two expeditions to the Murmansk Seacoast and the Novaya Zemlya Islands (1931–1934), where he made observations of bird colonies and performed many field experiments.

In 1935 Dr. Khotin's scientific work was interrupted: he was exiled to Central Asia, and for several years worked as a neuropathologist in the hospitals of Alma-Ata and other places. In 1941, at the beginning of the war, he joined the army and served as neuropathologist at frontline hospitals in the USSR, Poland and Germany.

In 1945 he was discharged with medals and returned to Leningrad to resume his work at the Institute of Brain Research. There he continued his investigations in the field of comparative psychology and in 1947 got

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the candidate degree for his dissertation "On phylo- and ontogenesis of imitation and learning of vertebrate animals."

On September 2, 1950, B. I. Khotin died after a grave and prolonged illness.

Dr. Khotin was married to Sarah Yakovlevna Khotina-Doron, a neuropathologist, and had two daughters.