Professor Arthur Stoll, born January 8, 1887, one of the most distinguished contemporary chemists has died in Basel on January 13, 1971.

Stoll had received his doctorate in chemistry in Zurich in 1911, working under Richard Willstätter. With Willstätter he moved to Berlin and later to Munich. The results of this fruitful collaboration were published in the famous monographs on chlorophyll and photosynthesis. In 1917, Stoll returned to Switzerland, where he was asked by the chemical factory Sandoz to build up a pharmaceutical department. Stoll, using the special methods of extraction learned from his work with Willstätter, started his industrial research work with ergot. He succeeded in isolating, from ergot of rye, ergotamine as an active principle of this old popular remedy. The success of this discovery is well known, and in the subsequent work, Stoll and his team were outstanding in clarifying the knowledge about the structure of the many alkaloids and amines produced by Claviceps purpurea.

Another research target selected by Stoll was the identification of the active principles in Digitalis lanata, Scilla maritima, strophanthus, senna, etc. New glyco-sides were discovered, and quite a number of them became standard products for therapy based on exact gravimetric dosage. Stoll’s research department grew quickly, and, in addition, a full pharmaceutical division was established under his directorship. In 1956, Stoll retired from active management, acting until 1964 as vice-chairman and from 1964 to 1967 as chairman of the board of directors of Sandoz Ltd.

Stoll’s work was immense, and he was greatly respected for his achievements. His field of action was plant-chemistry, but always with the aim of improving drug therapy. He saw his chemical research endeavours from the view-point of serving mankind in the fight against sickness, and it is significant for Stoll’s personality, that one of his most esteemed personal friends was Albert Schweitzer.

Arthur Stoll was Contributing Editor of the International Archives of Allergy and Applied Immunology and one of the Founder Members of the Collegium Internationale Allergologicum. Those who had the privilege of knowing him personally, will remember him as an outstanding scientist as well as a cultivated and most charming personality.