

# LIFE OF SCIENCE

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE SCIENCE OF SCIENCE

Editor: BOGUSŁAW LEŚNODORSKI

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*The President of the Circle is Mieczysław Chojnowski, Vice-President: Bogusław Leśnodorski, Secretary: Tomasz Komornicki. Address: Kraków, Słowackiego 66, Poland.*

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## CALLING FOR A FREE, PEACEFUL, AND CONSTRUCTIVE COLLABORATION OF NATIONS

THE HUNDRED Days of Wrocław draw the attention of the Polish people to the achievements of three years in the Regained Territories and on the river Odra which is called „frontier of peace“ The Exhibition of the Regained Territories shows convincingly that the Polish nation is successfully performing the task of reconstruction.

The days of August 25th to 28th have a special meaning among the Hundred Days of Wrocław. The World Congress of Intellectuals for the Defence of Peace gathers at a time when the voice of the „conscience of nations“ — of those who are the first in creative capacities, the workers of science and culture — is very necessary. The people in all parts of the

world, and especially those who have directly experienced the terrors of war, the times of contempt for and destruction of the contents of culture, want an answer to their most urgent question: *Can a new war be prevented?* Are the world's nations capable of peaceful collaboration, heedless of their social and economic structure? Does not the notion of freedom contain also the respect for the development of all national cultures and every man's dignity?

Such questions are to be answered by the active makers of science and culture, men of good will, advocates of progress, who understood the idea of the Congress and will visit Poland in Wroclaw on August 25th. They should also answer another question, more directly connected with their work: is it not necessary for the common cause of progress to ensure the free development of culture, the freedom of scientific investigation, and to make accessible the achievements, discoveries, and inventions of mankind as a whole without any restrictions?

It may be that the Congress' taking place in Wroclaw will advantageously influence Polish national and state affairs. But this was not the main reason for deciding Wroclaw as the headquarters of the Congress which is to deliberate in a place which will show to its members the traces of the recent and ominous past as well as the reconstruction of Poland to day, and the vision and omen of the two possibilities: war carrying extermination, and peace making possible life and work.

The world's intellectuals will try to start loyal cooperation among the makers of science and culture, for the first time on such a scale. Of course, this attempt will not bring immediate and great positive results. It can be foreseen that here also the natural contrasts and oppositions will come to light. But besides disclosing that which divides, the Congress will show all that unites mankind, that leads to a better future. Frontiers are no obstacle to understanding; the line dividing progressive and reactionary forces is more difficult to break.

Polish scientists welcome warmly the prominent representatives of the world's science coming to Poland. We are sure that the Congress will be one more important link in the tendency to use science as an incomparable tool which makes possible not only an immense increase of good and welfare of mankind, but also the putting in force of a really scientific view of the world.

There is one condition for the durable success of the Congress. The work of science for the good of mankind requires not only a strong and good will among its builders, but a new organization of scientific investigation as well, a new dissemination of science on a great scale. The Congress can find adequate methods of international collaboration. It should not only be a protest against war; it should also bring as many concrete conclusions and suggestions as possible.

## ON THE INSTRUCTING OF THE YOUNG SCIENTIFIC WORKERS

by JAN DEMBOWSKI

IN THE present days the matter of recruiting and instruction of the future scientists is the most important problem that stands before the organizers of Polish science. At the cost of comparatively little effort the scientific establishments, research work centres and libraries destroyed by the Nazi occupants may be rebuilt and the new ones may be created in accordance with the general progress of science. Man is, however, more important than the buildings, instruments and books. The existing state of affairs in this sphere is formidable. The war-losses among the Polish scientists and scholars are very severe; in some spheres of knowledge they reach forty and even sixty per cent. Although in the years of the war and occupation a certain percentage of youth was educated at the secret universities in Cracow and Warsaw, and some youth studied abroad, for the understandable reasons there was, however, a lack of the inflow of new scientists.

After the war Poland's needs increased in connection with the rebuilding of the State and social-economical structure as well as in connection with the increasing number of student youth and the need for the creation of a series of new universities and colleges.

To keep pace with the needs, and to train in the shortest time the new and numerous cadres of scientists an organized and serious collective effort ought to be undertaken. Particularly the following questions should be considered: the development of the proper scientific atmosphere in society in general that will favour the development of science to a higher degree than today; further increase of the scientists' salaries; deep study of the organization of colleges and universities, joined first of all with the specialization of the individual centres in the selected branches of science; mobilizing all institutions that have not been able to be set in motion after the war devastations or were set in motion only partially; proper equipment, modern implements, scientific aids and other necessary arrangements; tutelage of youth in the widest sense of the word, consisting among others of the systematic direction of suitable candidates to the foreign higher schools when all home possibilities are fully drained.

In New Poland the expenses for education and instruction ought to increase many times. The subsidizing of science ought to be linked with the totality of the detailed all-State planning in the name of building all our life on the scientific basis.

UNIVERSITY OF ŁÓDŹ



## THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF POLAND AND THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD, JAGELLONIAN UNIVERSITY OF CRACOW

by JÓZEF SIERADZKI

THE AUTHOR presents in his article a report of one year's work of the Institute for the study of Poland and the Contemporary World of the Jagellonian University of Cracow, of which he is the director. A course of study in the institute is compulsory for all students of the higher schools of Cracow during the last year of attendance. Similar institutes have been formed in Warsaw, Łódź, and Gliwice.

The institute was inaugurated on November 23rd, 1947. Lectures began in January, the students attending to them in twelve groups, a total of nearly 3400 persons. Tables are given, containing figures pertaining to the number of students, examinations, themes of written examinations; the results of the examinations are discussed.

A library of the institute is also organised, as well as a seminar for students specially interested and future scientific workers of the institute. Proseminars and exercises for all students attending to lectures are prepared.

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF POLAND, JAGELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, CRACOW

## SOCIOLOGY IN THE PROGRAMME OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

by CZESŁAW ZNAMIEROWSKI

THE knowledge of collective life is very necessary for the youth. And although it is the wisdom of life that individuals attain in the course of years, only science may give the knowledge that is put in order and which reaches far beyond man's own contacts with the environment. Everyone needs this knowledge in everyday life, in professional work and in mutual life with other people and social groups. Social knowledge has also the important feature that it socializes and moralizes, showing the individual his social dependencies, propagating the principle of reciprocity, fighting against xenophobia as well as against the infections of public and secret nationalism.

It happens that, in the secondary school, the sociologist's place is occupied by historians of general or national history, historians of literature and in part by all didactics. All of them ought to be given sufficient sociological training. It is true, however, that due to the present school programmes and lack of adequate specialists it would really be difficult to deal

with sociology as a separate subject. But even this would be possible with the help of skilful delivery by the intelligent teacher. In his way, however, stands the lack of a good manual on sociology and, joined with that, the lack of adequate syntheses.

UNIVERSITY OF POZNAN

## HIGHER AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN POLAND

by MICHAŁ REKAS

THE development of agriculture in Poland, the cultivation of the soil in the broad sense of this word and full social and cultural advancement of the country-people that numbers 68 per cent of the total population in this country, require a large number of qualified specialists in the shortest available time. Chiefly the following spheres are most important: the manufacture of the agricultural products; the organization and realization of the agricultural-industrial barter and credit; and also the organization of the educational and welfare work. Besides the workers who have elementary professional training, there is a great need of experts and specialists who would have received adequate training in the technical schools of the middle and higher types. Considering the complex situation in Poland, and resting on the extant experience in the sphere of this kind of higher schools (e. g. Higher School of Rural Economy in Łódź), the following postulates may be formulated:

1. The period of studies for the majority of the student youth in the higher agricultural schools should be shortened to 3 years in order to gain such a proportion between the necessary engineers-practitioners and engineers-theorists with higher scientific education as 1:6 in favour of the former.
2. The extension of higher professional schools and their proportion to the academic schools should be 3:5 in favour of the former.
3. School-programmes should be reorganized in such a way that the directions and spheres of education could correspond to the real needs of agriculture and the country-side.
4. Specialization ought to be joined with the synchronized saturation of the programmes of all schools with social and economic sciences.
5. There is a great need of working-out the principles of the proper selection of the candidates for further years of study in the academic schools.
6. Permanent co-operation between the professors and lecturers of all higher agricultural schools in general ought to be organized in the programme and didactic spheres as well as in the general planning of studies

and scientific research; the young scientists should also be trained (among others, suitable studies abroad should be included).

7. The system of special scientific and research institutes ought to be enlarged.

8. Youth from the country-side should be supported financially and morally by the organization of numerous academic boarding-houses, scholarship action, etc.

HIGHER SCHOOL OF RURAL ECONOMY, ŁÓDŹ.

## THE PROBLEM OF THE THEORY OF BIBLIOGRAPHY

by STANISŁAW SIEROTWIŃSKI

AS BIBLIOGRAPHY has been lately developed to a separate and important discipline with extensive tasks, there is proper time for the synthetic elaboration of its theoretical principles. The theory of bibliography ought to establish the aim, the tasks and the range of this discipline, to analyze its methods and to consider from the critical standpoint its up-to-now achievements.

The concrete tasks of bibliography are as follows: a) to inform about books in general, especially about books with regard to their external form and publishing aspect, which information is necessary for the professions connected with producing and circulating of the given issue, b) to point out papers necessary for the scientific research and for the practical professional activity in applied discipline as well. These tasks are fulfilled by arranging general, factual (systematic, according to the object and to the problem involved) and professional lists.

Three main phases should be distinguished in bibliographic method: 1) choice of material according to the task which the list is to fulfil. Theoretically it means as much as selecting some collection on the basis of a set of maintained criteria. 2) Arranging the description of papers of which the selected collection consists. 3) Arrangement in a certain order, supplemented with indexes what eventually means that the list is constructively interconnected.

Analyzing the aim, the specific tasks and some special methods of bibliography we get the following definition: Bibliography is the science of making inventory and of methodological arrangement of a complete collection of printed matters of its selected parts.

The whole of bibliographic works reflects to a certain extent in a concise form the development and the state of culture. This picture can be easily translated into numbers in form of bibliographic statistics. Bibliographic statistics makes an important basis of any planning in the field of publishing production and of policy regarding the libraries.



The development of technics bringing new means of fixing one's thoughts (gramophone records, photographs and others) widens the notion of document beyond printed matter. Bearing on this fact there is being coined a new notion of „documentography“ of which bibliography is a special branch concerning printed matters.

It is worth to emphasize that the elaboration of the lists of printed matters does not make the essence of bibliographic work, it is only the way to render accessible its results. The proper task of bibliography is to facilitate by means of first-hand and sufficient bibliographic information the scientific workers and the students to get to sources of knowledge gathered in books. That is why the problem of forming as soon as possible a set of centres for bibliographic information is so important. These centres should in time become by natural extension wider centres of any documentation. The future centres of documentation will work efficiently and appropriately if they are specialized and at the same time closely coordinated with the activities on national and international scale. In order to undertake a serious work of documentation first of all some proper specialists must be educated for this purpose. This is now our most urgent problem.

JAGELLONIAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, CRACOW

## FACTS AND OPINIONS

**CRITIQUE AND DISCUSSION IN THE HIGHER SCHOOLS.** By *Bogusław Leśnodorski*. The gradual reform of the organization of science and higher schools in Poland that is being raised at present is concerned with many problems, as for instance, the specialization of the individual scientific centres in the selected branches of knowledge; changes of the school programmes; organization inside the institutes of the universities and higher colleges comprising a larger number of chairs of kindred or similar subjects, etc.

The scientists' attention is concentrated also upon the problems of the self government of the individual schools and upon the different rungs of the scientific life in Poland. It will really be very useful to bring to life the resolutions of the new bill on the organization of science and higher schools that announces the introduction of the representatives of the younger scientific workers into the general assembly, senate and departmental councils of the individual schools. It is really of great importance to increase vivid and versatile discussion and collective critique that set the foundation for the development of scientific research and planned work within the bounds of the scientific institutes as well as special and general scientific institutions and societies. Also here the young and the youngest scientists should not fail to appear even if out of regard to the pedago-

gical value of education in the atmosphere of criticism and the linking of theory with practice in all sections of scientific and social life.

## SCIENCE IN POLAND

**MAN AND SCIENTIST. 70th BIRTHDAY OF PROF. TADEUSZ SINKO** THIS YEAR the Polish philological world celebrates the solemn jubilee of the 70th birthday of the distinguished Polish philologist Tadeusz Sinko. Born on 14th September 1877, near Cracow, Tadeusz Sinko unusually quickly attained an important position in the scientific world. After receiving the doctorship in 1900, the young scientist went abroad where he deepened and widened his studies under the direction of such prominent philologists as Vahlen, Wilamowitz, Bücheler, Usener, Krumbacher and others. At that time he took part independently in such important works as *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* and the publication of St. Georgy's of Nazianz works. In 1907 he was appointed to the chair of philosophy at the University of Lwów. Tadeusz Sinko is the author of many hundreds of original, critical and monographic works in the sphere of the Greek, Latin and Polish philologies as well as in Humanities and Patristics. His life's work, *History of Greek Literature*, was completed during the German occupation and is now being published. Originality, versatility of interests and unusual erudition are the most important features of Tadeusz Sinko as a scientist. Besides that the author of this short biography draws extensively the personal character and mental power of this scientist, emphasizing the interesting union of antique culture with vivid modernity.

**CONGRESS OF THE POLISH PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY.** The fifty seventh congress of the Polish Philological Society took place on 13th—14th June, 1948 in Łódź, gathering together almost all scientific workers of classical philology. Besides the organisational matters (such as reports on activity, election of new Executive Board, appointment of new honorary members) the main subjects of the congress were the present situation of the classical languages in the new organisation of Polish schools (Didactic Section) and the newest scientific works of the Polish philologists (Scientific Section). The president of the Society is at present Prof. Jan Sajdak; vice-presidents are Prof. Jerzy Manteuffel, Prof. Stefan Srebrny and Prof. Rajmund Gostkowski. Prof. Dr. Witold Klinger, the investigator of ancient folk-lore and Prof. Seweryn Hammer, the eminent expert of ancient novelistics were given the honorary membership.

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