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ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATURE PRESERVATION AS A SCIENCE

by ADAM WODZICZKO

THE PRESERVATION of nature is a new branch of science. Its development can be divided into 3 periods: 1) preserving, 2) biocenotic, 3) planistic. In the first period men tried to save the last remnants of the original nature. The first and at the same time typical representant of this direction was H. Conwentz (d. 1922) the head of the Museum for Natural Science in Gdańsk. He was a botanist. The practical preservation of nature meant to him scientific work at the same time. He initiated the office of caretaker of nature memorials and issued the periodical BEITRÄGE ZUR NATURDENKMALPFLEGE. In the Polish science we hawe such a pioneer in the person

of M. Raciborski (d. 1917) who the first in the whole world had lectures on the knowledge of natural relics at the universities of Kraków and Lwow. The new physiological-preserving course is developed from the knowledge of natural relics. Its most brilliant representant in Poland is W. Szafer, in Germany W. Schoenichen.

In the biocenotic period the preservation of nature is also interested in the animals and plants bred by man. The scientists want to preserve not only the ancient plants and animals but also the whole world of the genuine flora and fauna as their gradual destruction and degeneration was stated. The preservation is beginning to become an applied science, the pioneer of which was Jan Sv. Prochaska. He was the first lecturer on preservation of nature at the Praha University. J. Paczoski is regarded as the typical scientific worker in this branch of khowledge.

In the planistic period the whole of nature on a given area becomes the chief object of interest which, as it was stated, forms at the same time an organical unity. As this fact was not taken into consideration many damages were done turning very often fertile soil into deserts. The improvement of economical methods was not enough, the scientists ought to care for the cultivation of the whole of the landscape. The principles laid down for the cultivation of the landscape are at present the greatest achievement in the preservation of nature.

POZNAŃ

MORE ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE POLISH SCIENCE

by JAN MYDLARSKI

IN No. 7-8 of LIFE OF SCIENCE Prof. J. Mydlarski promotes the project of reorganization of the Polish Academy of Science, calling forth the opposition of Prof. T. Kowalski in No. 9-10 of this monthly. In this paper Prof. J. Mydlarski refutes the reproaches giving an exact account of the theses of his project. The chief idea of it is the extension of the competence of the Academy so that in scientific matters only the scientific workers have to decide.

M. CURIE-SKŁODOWSKA UNIVERSITY, LUBLIN

ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE POLISH SCIENCE

by JANUSZ DOMANIEWSKI

THE ESMITATE of Prof. J. Mydlarski's project on the reorganization of the Polish Academy of Science and Letters (see LIFE OF SCIENCE No. 7-8) is the contents of this paper. The author is of a similar opinion as the project-giver. On the other hand he refutes Prof. T. Kowalski's contr-arguments against introducing any changes to the Academy (see LIFE OF SCIENCE No. 9-10).

M. CURIE-SKŁODOWSKA UNIVERSITY, LUBLIN

REMARKS ON UNIVERSITY STUDIES AND EXAMINATIONS IN POLISH PHILOLOGY

by STANISŁAW PIGOŃ

WHEN SPEAKING about the reform of the studies in Polish philology we ought to state that we are not thinking about the reduction of demands by which the students can profit only temporarily, but about the effectiveness of the studies, as the reform is for the future. We must not suppose that the studies in Polish philology are easy. Owing to this false assumption there are so many students who want to study this subject. We forget that the majority of humanists take up the profession of teachers. This occupation needs a more careful selection of candidates. Especially the teacher of Polish exercises a great influence in the education forming the psychological structure of the pupil. Thus the taking up of this profession mostly by women as an element more inclined to sentimentality gives cause to much stipulation. The postulate of selection of the candidates resulting from the above mentioned statement can't be solved for the time being by an entrance examination. This selection must be achieved during the studies in connection with the examinations for the degree of M. A. The reform of 1923 did not bring any definite solution of these difficulties. It introduced a better order into the studies, it is true, but it did not aver the prolongation of the studies and a the same time it made more difficult for the abler students to get above the average level. There ought to be found a compromise between the last reform and the old liberalism in the studies. First of all two clauses of the decree of 1926 ought to be changed: 1. the excessive dividing of the partial examinations and 2. the disproportion between the encyclopedical basis of the studies and the period of strict specialization. The division must be kept but it is necessary to define it more precisely and carry it consequentially out so that the student may begin to specialize in his third course. The material for examinations must be finished in the course of four years and the final examination has to state how the candidate is prepared for the teacher's profession.

SEMINAR OF HISTORY OF POLISH LITERATURE, JAGIELLONIAN UNVERSITY, KRAKÓW

REMARKS ON THE REFORM OF THE BIOLOGICAL STUDIES

by JAN WILCZYŃSKI

THE PROJECT of the Polish Board of Education in 1939 as to the examinations for the degree of Master of Science at the faculties of science brought some order into this question although it was not introduced. The aim of the reform was to give some basis to the scientific work at the universities. The degree of M. Science did not entitle the proprietor to teach in a secondary school. Because of the present development of the elementary schools lasting 8 years and secondary schools lasting 4 years a greater part of properly trained

teachers are needed immediately. The new project tries to find a way for it. The project suggested by the Jagiellonian University has some advantages viz. its far reaching specialization and the introduction of a secondary compulsory object which is so much needed by the teacher for his obligatory quantity of lessons. The negative side of the project is the introduction of a new scientific title „the licentiate" received after two years studies entitling to teach in the elementary school. First of all the title may mislead the public opinion as to its level because it would have to be equal to the French *licencié ès sciences* which, on the other hand is equivalent to our degree of Master of Science. Thus it would only give the appearance of having finished the university studies with neither the proper preparation in the selected objects nor in didactics or in pedagogy. This preparation can't be acquired at the didactical summer courses or summer practice. A 2 years course at teachers seminars or other pedagogical institutions would prove more efficient. Moreover there already are Pedagogical High Schools which last for 3 years. In the project of the Jagiellonian University more stress is laid on the concrete and practical informations and too little on abstract and generalizing knowledge. There are left out in the programme of this project the following objects: general zoology, general and theoretical biology on which there are lectures at most European and American universities. The higher mathematics and philosophy are also needed as they give a perfect synthesis.

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THE SCIENTIFIC WORKS OF MIECZYSŁAW MAŁECKI

by TADEUSZ STANISŁAW GRABOWSKI

MIECZYSŁAW Małecki, the expert in Slavonic dialects, 1903—1946, had the occasion already as a pupil of the secondary school to get acquainted with the idioms of one part of Poland, the so-called Galicja. No wonder that he caught the attention of his professors when still studying the first year by his quick and shrewd observations on philological questions.

Encouraged by his good results in his research work of the Tatra idioms, he began to examine the transitory dialects on the south-Slavonic, the Slavonic-Italian and the Bulgaro-Macedonian-Greek territories. The results of his investigations showed the Slavonic philologists the way. To M. Małecki they brought fame and gave him a position among the European experts of dialects. We can divide his works into four groups containing different questions. To the first group belong his investigations into the Polish idioms published in the Cracow magazine LUD SŁOWIAŃSKI. The most important work of this group is his *Linguistic Atlas of the Polish Tatra District* drawn with the greatest precision, a curiosity in the Slavonic philology. The second group of his investigations refer to the Polish language islands on foreign geographic-national

territories. This work was also well received by Polish as well as foreign critics. The third part of Małecki's scientific works contain observations gathered on the borderlands of two or three different Slavonic idioms on so-called controversial territories where these are mixed with non-Slavonic elements. Among other papers there are worth noting his studies in Macedonian and *a Review of the Slavonic Idioms in Istria* which are not only of great scientific importance but also weigh mightily in the eternal Bulgaro-Serbian quarrel as well as in the Yugo-Slavonic-Italian fight for these lands. The last group of works of the Polish expert of idioms are little contributions from the comparative philology in non-Slavonic languages. The research work summed up as a whole of this comparatively young scientific worker is really imposing. At the same time his ideas were very original. He explained many very complicated, new, and quite unknown questions. Owing to this he gave answers to so many problems as yet unsolved. He died, when on a course of Slavonic philology organized by himself for Polish teachers of elementary and secondary schools.

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FACTS AND OPINIONS

THE ACADEMICAL SCHOOLS AT THE CROSS-ROAD. The paper gives a synthetic survey of the present discussion which has taken place because of the projected reorganization of the academical schools. There are quoted the opinions on this subject of Prof. M. Jaroszyński who is the projector of the reorganization, of Prof. H. Raabe who is for the autonomy of the academical schools, of the chairman of the Council for Academical Schools W. Sokorski, and of some journalists. The aim of the proposed reform is to make the activities of the Polish academical schools more efficient.

SOCIAL RESEARCH AND ITS ORGANIZATION. After having summarized the theses given by Prof. Sargant Florence from the University of Birmingham in NATURE (No. 4011, 1946) the authoress of this paper D. Dobrowolska states that they can be applied to Polish conditions as well. A greater financial help is needed for social research. This research work will be of great practical importance because of the influence the war has had on the psychic of the Polish society, on the changes which the territorial location of the inhabitants underwent (owing to the mass settlement on the Western Territories), on the social structure (extension of the towns, industrial development, etc.), as well as on the re-emigration of the Poles from other European countries. The most important matter is the necessity of collaboration among the particular branches of science and the individual centres of research work. This will help us to understand the new social reality completely and to improve the research metode thods.

PSYCHOLOGISM AND REALISM. In the many discussions led in different literary magazines frequent methodological inaccuracies are made by the authors. The author, Stanisław Lem, draws the attention to this fact. Discussing the question of typology he points out that it requires the method of a great amount of facts for proving the truth of certain theses. Otherwise one could run the risk of being accused of spontaneity. Some authors represent pure typological forms which are not quite sufficiently explained. Literary trends and groups are a better material for such research work. The necessity of discriminating axiologic sentences from theoretical generalizing is the second important assertion. The generalizations only have a scientific value. All attempts of valuing are unsuccessful as they must be based but on intuition, „taste", „literary ear" etc.

UNIVERSAL SCIENCE (WIEDZA POWSZECHNA). The author speaks about the popularly scientific publications in connection with rational organization of the adult education. He explains the notion of a good popularly scientific book according to the opinions of such specialists as A. Hertz and Prof. S. Szuman, and states the neccessity of supplying the self-taught with such a book. At the end of the paper he discusses the prospectus and actitivity of the popularly scientific publications of WIEDZA POWSZECHNA (UNIVERSAL SCIENCE).

SCIENCE AND LETTERS IN POLAND

ON THE REORGANIZATION OF THE ACADEMICAL STUDIES. This paper contains an extensive discussion of the results attained at the conference of the Council for Academical Schools, April, 11th, 1947, in connection with the reform of the technical, economic and commercial, and humanistic studies. The reform of the technical studies was the most discussed problem, especially the question of introducing two degrees of studies: the programme A granting the title of engineer-master of technical science and the programme B for professional engineers. Then the author speaks about the reform of the economic and commercial studies and the humanistic ones. Thus it was decided to consider the title of Master of Arts granted at the humanistic faculty as the lower scientific title which entitles at the same time to teach in secondary schools.

THE HISTORY OF THE POLISH MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY *by St. Gołąb.* The Polish mathematics the same as so many other branches of science had decayed because of the partitions of Poland. At the end of the last century, it is true, there was a tendency to develop this science in Poland. A circle of Polish mathematicians was founded about 1880. But only at the end of the first world war there was a greater activity. In 1917 a circle at Lwów was founded and in 1919 after regaining our independency the Mathematical Society in Kraków was formed. Since that time Kraków has become a prominent centre of mathematics thanks to Prof. Zaremba and Prof. Żorawski, scientists of worldwide fame. A year afterwards the Kraków Circle was reorganized as the General Polish Society of Mathematicians. In 1936 its seat was removed to

Warsaw. The Polish Mathematical Society issued its ANNALES DE LA SOCIETÉ MATHÉMATIQUE DE POLOGNE, where were published original scientific papers of Polish as well as foreign scientists in a foreign language. Only the first annals were published in Polish (1921). Prof. Zaremba was the editor of these annals till 1939, after the war — Prof. Leja. Up to this time there have been published 18 year-books and 6 appendices in Polish. Before the war there were over 200 members, 40 of them were of other nationality. The reactivation of the Society took place in 1945, Prof. Kazimierz Kuratowski from Warsaw was elected chairman. The personal losses published in the first post-war year-book amount to 42 members. The Wilno and Lwów Circles have been liquidated, a new circle arose in Wrocław where in 1946 the first post-war Polish meeting of mathematicians took place. There were founded three mathematical prizes, 80.000 zł each. They were offered in 1947 to Prof. Sierpiński, Prof. Kuratowski, and Prof. Steinhaus.

THE CONGRESS OF THE BALTIC INSTITUTE. In December 1946 took place in Bydgoszcz a congress devoted to the questions connected with East Pomerania (formerly East Prussia). The delegates of different ministries and offices as well as scientific workers were present. *(From No. 13—14).*

SCIENCE ABROAD

CONCERNING THE CENTRAL RESEARCH BOARD AND OTHER ENGLISH PROJECTS. In February 1945 there took place a conference of the Association of Scientific Workers at Caxton Hill, Westminster, devoted to the problems of science after the war. This was a continuation of two former conferences, the first of which had „Science and Productivity" as its motto, while the second was concerned with the future development of science. The third was devoted to technological and economic problems, and at its close 5 resolutions were passed, their chief idea being the stressing of the importance of science both in the reorganization of the lives of individuals and in that of economical, state or international structure.

THE 25 TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION IN BRUSSELS. In this article Włodzimierz Antonkiewicz gives an outline of the History and the labours of that institution. The data are taken from the pamphlet: Fondation Universitaire — Vingt-cinquieme Rapport Annuel — 1944—1945, Bruxelles, 11, rue d'Egmont. This meritorious institution is devoted to the furthering and developing of science, and its chief aim is to help young Belgian students financially and morally in the pursuit of their studies, and later on, in their research work. The University Foundation has the following committees: the scholarship committee, the scientific publication and subsidy committee, and the committee of scientific libraries. Its basic capital amounts to 69 million francs, and its yearly income amounts to 20 million francs.