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INDEPENDENTLY of the conference in Cracow which we reported in the last number of *Life of Science*, another conference took place on February 13th, 1946, in Warsaw, at the *Prezydium Rady Ministrów* (The Prime Ministers Office). A small number of representatives of the Government and of the scientific world debated the question of the organization of science — a problem much discussed in Poland nowadays. It has been stated that the situation of Polish science is difficult as a result of the war, and to rebuild it the following means must be adopted: 1) The concentration of active, scientific workers. 2) The concentration of means provided by the State for the purpose of the development of science. 3) Centralization of all problems of organization and programme in one body. 4) The ensuring of a suitable position among the authorities of the State for this body.

The following resolutions (abbreviated) are the result of the debates of the scientists who have been taking part in the conference.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF SCIENCE

by LUDWIK SAWICKI

IN the times between the two World Wars, science in Poland had not the necessary conditions for good development. The State adopted a friendly but rather passive attitude towards science.

The necessary rebuilding of the organization of science ought to proceed along two lines, namely: 1) The acknowledgement of science as one of the ways of developing civilization, increasing the wealth of the nation and strengthening the position of democracy. 2) The centralization of all questions concerning science in a special office with an undersecretary of state in the *Prezydium Rady Ministrów*.

The reconstruction of science must proceed according to a plan and under the following conditions: 1) Accurate lists of active scientific workers must be drawn up. 2) Financial support from the State must be concentrated. 3) The Warsaw scientific centre should be acknowledged as the chief centre of science and learning and brought up to a suitably high level. 4) Beside the capital only four centres of scientific research should be created, as we cannot afford more. 5) Publishing activities, especially the scientific press, should be re-organized. 6) The rule of planning and co-ordination of scientific research should be adopted.

One of the most important questions is that of the universities. They may be regarded either as schools giving a theoretical training (an then professional schooling should be transferred to advanced technical colleges), or the universities can be divided into two grades: a lower for professional training and a higher for the teaching of theoretical science.

The research institutes at the universities should be enlarged. They should include several similar subjects, have their permanent scientific staff and work on the team-principle. Scientific work requires an atmosphere of freedom and mutual confidence. A university is not an office and should not be one. Full autonomy, freedom of science, and close contact with the requirements of everyday life are necessary conditions for the development of scientific research.

Generally speaking, 1) A permanent advisory committee for the organization of science and planning should be formed in the office of the undersecretary of state for scientific affairs. The committee should consist of representatives of the chief groups of natural sciences and humanistic studies. 2) A conference of the representatives of the most important scientific centres should be organized in order to discuss the general plan for the organization of science. 3) A scientific board should be created, consisting of persons invited by the competent state authority. 4) A special central office for the organization of co-operation and development of relations with foreign countries should be created.

STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, WARSAW.

SIDELIGHTS ON THE RESULTS OF THE CRACOW CONFERENCE

by WITOLD SUCHODOLSKI

THE MOST vital of all problems of the organization of Polish science — a problem as to the almost tragic vitality of which there can be no doubt — is the "rebuilding" of man, i. e. the training of thousands of scientific workers and professional men with a university education. The Cracow conference insisted upon the necessity of freedom for science, as though this were the most serious need of science in Poland, while not its freedom, but its existence, is threatened in view of the terrific damage it has sustained and the lack of means to reconstruct it.

THE STATE ARCHIVES, WARSAW.

THE FUNDAMENTALS AND AIMS OF SCIENCE

by BOGDAN SUCHODOLSKI

THE ARTICLE gives a full commentary on the book by Mr. Arnold Nash, "The University and the Modern World. An Essay in the Social Philosophy of University Education" (S. C. M. Press) recently published in London. The author of the article describes the book as deep and interesting.

SEMINARY OF THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW.

THE PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS

by TADEUSZ DOWJAT

THE SOCIAL position of the scientist does not correspond to the colossal importance of science and its splendid development. Who knows, there may be a danger of forcing scientists into the rôle of mere hired specialists who have no decisive influence on the way in which their scientific activities are being applied to life. This danger should be counteracted, the more so as the number of scientific institutions and their workers is steadily on the increase. This task may be carried out, besides the representation of the financial interests, by an association to which we have hitherto had nothing similar and which was formed last year in Lublin under the name of the Association of Workers in High Schools and Scientific Institutes. This union has three sections: scientific workers, clerks, and technical staff. It has had many successes in the fight for an amelioration of the living conditions of people working in the field of science as scientific, administrative or technical workers. It may be expected that the activities of the union will in time cover the whole of Poland, because the scientific workers should decide themselves as to their future and their social position.

THE MARIE CURIE-SKŁODOWSKA UNIVERSITY, LUBLIN

THE AIMS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS

by BOGUSŁAW LEŚNODORSKI

THE ASSOCIATION of Scientific Workers should take as its aim not only the welfare of its members, but it should chiefly seek the good of science and help it to fulfil its proper social task. This is very well understood abroad, especially in England, America, and the Soviet Union. The British Association of Scientific Workers and the corresponding American association not only fight for the welfare of the scientists, but also try to make science contribute to the

common welfare. Three schemes for an association of scientists are being at present discussed in Poland. A scheme for an association in common with the teaching staffs of secondary schools does not seem the right solution, for the scientists represent not only the teaching of science but above all progress in research. The idea of an association of scientific workers, together with administrative and technical workers, put forward by the Lublin Association, would be good if only the question of the protection of their common welfare were concerned. As it is, however there is also a much more important problem — that of the popularization of scientific culture, of the scientific transformation of life, of using social strength in a planned and scientific way, and finally of creating a new spiritual and ethical attitude and of getting rid of the social remnants of the prescientific epochs. An association of scientific workers aiming at such ideals could considerably contribute to the awakening of a sense of responsibility for the future of the world in scientists and to the realization of scientific and humanistic ideals.

SEMINARY OF THE HISTORY OF LAW, JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY OF CRACOV.

THE NEEDS OF POLISH ARCHIVISTS

by LEON BIAŁKOWSKI

THE AUTHOR speaks of the necessity of research in the field of the pre-history and early history of Poland and the necessity of recommencing the publication of historical sources. The Polish Archives have suffered great losses, the collections of documents having been looted and devastated by the Germans. When publishing some historical sources the sometimes too pedantic requirements of the editors are a certain obstacle. They should most certainly be less rigorous.

SEMINARY OF HISTORY OF POLAND, THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LUBLIN.

ON THE SLAVONIC INSTITUTE

by HENRYK BATOWSKI

THE CHIEF institution for the co-ordination of all the common undertakings of the Slav peoples, the Slavonic Committee in Poland, decided some months ago to found a Slavonic Institute in Poland. The Slavonic Institute is to be a centre of research. It will work principally in the sphere of the Slavonic activities of today, probably in three sections: political and social, economic, and cultural. The publication of encyclopaedic works and monographs is being considered, as well as publications on problems typical of the Slav peoples, including if possible the whole of what should be known about them.

THE BOARD OF THE SLAVONIC COMMITTEE IN POLAND, WARSAW.

THE REST of this issue includes a chronicle of scientific life in Poland, an account of the Congress of the Polish Botanical Society, the Conference of Polish Physicists and the Conference on the Education of Teachers, a chronicle of scientific events abroad, a review of laws concerning science, comments, the author of which discusses the educational worth of humanistic studies, and develops the conception of scientific humanism, and lastly there is a review of the Press and diverse accounts.

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