LIFE OF SCIENCE

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WHAT DO WE UNDERSTAND BY THE FREEDOM OF SCIENCE?

By KAZIMIERZ AJDUKIEWICZ

THE Freedom of science consists of four parts: the freedom of speech, of thought, of problematics and of the methods used. The freedom of speech is to a certain degree a freedom of action, and there are two sides to it: the positive one, meaning that one can speak, write or print whatever one wishes, and the negative one, meaning that one is not forced to speak, write, or print things one objects to. When we speak about restrictions put upon the freedom of speech conceived that way, we mean restrictions consciously and designedly put upon it by certain people. These restrictions may consist in the taking away of the physical conditions of free speech, which is done by censorship, but it may also be done by means of moral prohibitions, e. g. the fear of reprisals, the fear of losing one's reputation, etc., all these being less direct consequences of free speech. But the freedom of speech, conceived so broadly, is not an essential element of the freedom of science. We see that science itself has created factors, which limit such an anarchically conceived freedom of speech. The editors of the scientific periodicals and publications are the preventive censors, the scientific criticisms and the opinion of the scientists are the organs of moral approval or disapproval. The essential element of the freedom of science is the freedom of speech taken in a more limited way, namely the freedom to utter statements which are in agreement with the demands of scientific methods and the absence of coercion to utter statements which would be contradictory to such methods. The freedom of scientific criticism and of scientific censorship in general are most important. The freedom of speech is indispensable to a satisfactory development of science, firstly because of the cooperation of the scientists, and secondly as a stimulus to conduct researches. Some limitations of the freedom of speech are, however, permissible in some cases. Such limitations may be sometimes enforced on humanitarian, patent, state or social grounds, and their value depends on the ideals which caused them.

The freedom of thought must be understood differently than that of speech; it is often independently of our will that we consider something to be the truth. Here, we must submit to the arguments, the testimony of our experience, to our memory, the obviousness of some argumentation, etc. We must regard the freedom of speech as being diametrally opposed to thinking as commanded, as being a protest against all rules, telling us that our duty is to have such and such views, without paying any attention whether they are based upon the truth or not. It is a protest against the putting up of dogmas, which do not possess well-grounded foundations. Such restrictions in the freedom of thought would impede the progress of science, as they would force us to abstain from researches, experiments, from scientific methods in short, and would make us accept dogmatic beliefs, not based on researches. Naturally, the command to believe dogmas blindly would not affect the freedom of thought, but coercing us to accept it would do so. The lack of critical judgment, the fact of being under the influence of love or hate, instead of being guided by impartial reason, these are signs of the restrictions upon the freedom of thought. But the realization of a truly critical attitude of the mind is not wholly possible; education already inculcates some views into our minds which we accept uncritically. Such uncritical superstitions are not absent from science either, and to break away from them often means to make a very considerable progress in science. The freedom of thought in the domain of science is inseparable from the proper cultivation of science.

Restrictions in the freedom of problematics and scientific researches consist of making it difficult, if not impossible, to take up some problems, or of imposing upon us the taking up of other problems. The financial dependence of the scientist upon the institution or individual financing his researches, lies at the root of this evil. Sometimes it is also caused by a slighting attitude of the opinion, or of some important circles, towards certain problems. All restrictions in the freedom of problematics do not necessarily aim at the freedom of science, only the restrictions in the freedom of scientific problematics do so. But this problem involves the difficult definition of criteria distinguishing purely scientific problems from non-scientific ones. Our relation to the freedom of scientific problematics in the case of problems of both kinds will depend upon the fact whether the importance of a purely scientific point of view will be our criterion, or that of the extraepistemologic or practical point of view. There is some conflict between the freedom of scientific problematics and the planned organization and management of scientific work. This conflict may be avoided, if we shun extremities; if besides an indispensable planned organization, we find time and means for spontaneous scientific creation.

The freedom of choosing the methods of our researches is indispensable to a favourable development of science, but it sometimes collides with ethical norms (e.g. Vivisection), and in such cases its restriction should not be objected to. It is harmful, however, to monopolize and strictly adhere to certain methods, without having scientifically founded reasons for doing so. The auto-

nomy of scientific institutions best illustrates the importance of the freedom of science.

SEMINAR OF THE THEORY AND METHODOLOGY OF SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF POZNAŃ

CENTRALIZATION OR DECENTRALIZATION OF THE HUMANITIES

By WŁADYSŁAW CZAPLIŃSKI

WE ARE faced by the problem, should all scientific workers be kept at the universities, or should they rather join research centres, created in larger provincial towns. As far as the humanities are concerned, there are 2 arguments backing up the first solution: 1) only university towns possess suitable libraries, archives and laboratories; 2) the university towns have a special scientific atmosphere. As a result of such an argumentation many prominent representatives leave the provincial towns and come to the university centres, which is a thing one should object to, particularly as both arguments have their weak points. In Poland not one university town besides Cracow has to-day the conditions of work the first argument is speaking about. As to the other, already before the war some provincial towns had a scientific life of their own in societes, the activity of which depended upon the number of their more prominent members. If all such members, being, especially in the field of the humanities, teachers of middle schools, left their provincial centres, then we should have nobody to prepare younger generations for their future undergraduate studies. But such teachers should be induced to remain in the provincial towns and in secondary schols by an improvement of their working conditions, not by mere phrases, pointing out their responsible role. Above all, teachers, who do scientific work, should have less working hours a week, and should have material help through scholarships. etc. The final demand is: they ought to be enabled to have frequent contacts with the university centres with the professors, institutes and scientific societies.

THE HISTORICAL INSTITUTE OF THE WROCŁAW UNIVERSITY

THE MOST IMPORTANT NEEDS OF POLISH BIBLIOGRAPHY

by WIKTOR HAHN

POLISH bibliography is to-day confronted by great and important tasks. Many bibliographies are at present exhausted, some, ready for print but not yet published, were destroyed during the war. Many works are awaiting publication or republication, and we find here works dealing with general bibliographies and those having a special character, namely bibliographies of the separate branches of science, bibliographies of distinguished personalities, of towns and periodicals. It would be very profitable to form a permanent Commission for Bibliography affiliated to the Ministry of Education or that of Culture and Arts. This Commission, consisting

of specialists in this subject, ought to take into its hands the leadership of all affairs connected with bibliography, and to determine their course. If not thus focussed into one central point, the activities concerned with bibliography will necessarily remain planless and irregular.

WARSZAWA

REMARKS UPON POLISH HISTORICAL PERIODICALS

by JAN RUTKOWSKI

THE ARTICLE contains detailed information about pre-war Polish historical pericdicals, which were well developed on the whole. We find here remarks upon these periodicals which fully deserve to be published again, upon others, which have to undergo more or less fundamental reorganization, and, lastly, besides many desiderata, the author mentions publications, which may be discontinued with out any loss. Pointing out the extraordinarily important role of scientific periodicals in the reorganization of modern science, the author discusses the essential elements of such publications, namely the bibliographies, reviews, reports about the activities of scientific societies, research institutes, libraries, archives and museums, news about scientific congresses, competitions, etc., and also obituary notices of scientists, who have passed away. He also discusses the role of essays in the periodicals, and gives us some general remarks; he is, however, chiefly interested in Polish historical periodicals. With his remarks, concerning the publishing of historical papers in non-historical publications, the author closes his article.

SEMINAR OF ECONOMIC HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF POZNAŃ.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SCIENCE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE U. S. S. R.

by TOMASZ KOMORNICKI

THE FIRST number of the French quarterly **La pensée** brings us an interesting article by August Chevalier about the organization of the science of agriculture in the U. S. S. R. The most important institutions having to do with the agricultural and affiliated sciences are: the Institute of the History of Science and of Technology, the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the Institute of Experimental Biology, the Scientific Institute for Researches connected with World Politics and Economy, the Institute for Plant Breeding, the Institute of Biochemistry and Physiology, The Institute for the Soil Science, the Veterinary Institute for Researches in Artificial Impregnation of Domestic Animals, and the Institute of Plant Pathology. These institutes are centralistic and of prominent importance, but besides them there are many special institutes scattered all over Asia and Europe. Thanks to them agriculture

and the sciences dealing with it are to-day on a very high level in the U. S. S. R.

The state of sciences connected with agriculture shows many shortcomings in our contury, in spite of the fact that Poland is still an agricultural country. A development of these sciences, an introduction of better methods and an enlightenment of the broad masses of the farmers are to be desired, but we cannot expect any outstanding results without corresponding material means.

CIRCLE FOR THE SCIENCE OF SCIENCE, CRACOW

THE SCOPE AND THE SYSTEM OF ANTHROPOLOGY

by IRENEUSZ MICHALSKI

THERE is still no agreement among the anthropologists as to the scope, the system and the tasks of the science they are representing. It may be therefore of interest to reflect what anthropology really is.

The opinion of Aristotle who regarded anthropology as part of philosophy dealing with man, is to-day an anachronism, though it has recently been revived by Ernest Krieck. The maximalistic attitude of the authors of *Dictionnaire des sciences anthropologiques*, published in 1896, is antiquated too, though it has been backed up by Duckworth, according to whom the subject of anthropology are not only physical and psychical qualities of man, but also all his products. We also fail to see why physical anthropology should be conneated with psychical antropology (as it is done in the Anglo-Saxon countries), to which ethnology, ethongraphy and prehistory belong.

The French anthropologists of the last century and, more recently, the German Jankowsky, were wrong in including into anthropology all branches of the natural sciences, dealing with man, because then not only embryology or psychology, but even toxicology and hygiene would be included here. Martin (following Blumenbach) has very rightly characterized anthropology as the science concerned with the physical qualities of human groups, he was not, however, interested in taxonomical units, but in ethnic groups, which have not always been precisely defined. Czekanowski has called our attention to the necessity of a systematic determination of all individuals belonging to a group, but he has narrowed the scope of anthropology by defining it as the science of man as the biological basis of social phenomena, at the same time taking into consideration the complications brought about by the diversity of the human species.

I am proposing the follwing definition: *Anthropology is a broadly conceived systematics of man.* It is a science which affirms the existence of some taxonomical units within humanity; it tends towards separating them, fixing and systematizing them according to their affinities, it examines their localization in time and space, and their genealogical relation to the animal world.

Anthropology is divided into five large branches:

I. *General anthropology* deals with the science itself, with its tools of

work and with the basic units. Here belong: Theory of Anthropology, dealing with its scope, system, aims, etc., History of Anthropology, Methodology of Anthropology, and Taxonomy, which examines the general qualities of anthropological taxonomic units.

II. Anthropography (static anthropology, typology) describes the separate systematic units from all point of view, in the phase of their fullest development, and it fixes their typological rules. It may be divided into Morphological Anthropology (somatology, merology and micromerology) and Functional Anthropology (physiological, pathological and psychical anthropology).

III. Dynamic Anthropology examines the changes a taxonomical unit is subject to, in the course of its development. It may be divided into Anthropogenetics (the most fundamental anthropological discipline, which has to do with the genetic structure of separated taxonomical individuals), Dynamic Taxonomy and Ontogenetic Anthropology, which uses the methods of embryology.

IV. *Group Anthropology* deals with the typological analysis of human groups, and it examines man as the biological basis of social phenomena. Here belong: Ethnical Anthropology and Historical Anthropology.

The three last branches of anthropology (II, III and IV) deal all of them with modern man *(H. sapiens L.)*. But:

V. *Philogenetic Anthropology* has to do with extinct forms of man, with the problem of his descent and his affinity to the animal world. Its sub-divisions are: Paleanthropology, Anthropozoology and Anthropogeny, which tries to reconstruct the natural genealogical tree of mankind.

INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF ŁÓDŹ

THE SECTION *News and Views* contains, among others, fragments of the speech of Bolesław Bierut, President of the Polish National Council, held during the aprual public meeting of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters, in Cracow, on June 19, 1946. This speech was dedicated to the relationships between science and politics and it fully stressed the importance of science in the contemporary world, and the necessity that scientists should participate in social life, and that polities should be backed up by science. „Every scientist, without discrimination to what branch of professional speciality he belongs, — said President Bierut — must be at the same time a humanist, must be vividly interested in the phenomena of social life..." „Politics, of the right and intelligent kind, must be based upon a deep, scientific analysis of existing reality", and „the role of Polish science under present conditions may and should be incomparably greater than ever before"

The Chronicle of scientific life in Poland contains a discussion of the activities of the Western Institute, of the National Institute of Progress, and the Trade Union of Historians of Art and Culture, also a short chronicle of scientific events in May, together with a review of the Press.

The section *Science abroad* brings us an article by Prof. F. J. M. Stratton, specially sent to the Life of Science, entitled: *International Scientific Cooperation*, in which the author discusses the activity and tasks of the International Council of Scientific Unions; further a discussion of the medical publications of *His Majesty's Stationery Office*, and the Chronicle.

SCIENCES AND LETTERS IN POLAND

IN accordance with our announcement in No. 5 of the **Life of Science**, we are going to devote more space than heretofore in our English summaries to events connected with the Polish science, and we shall discuss the life of the university centres and scientific institutions, together with congresses and conferences. We hope that this chronicle will be of interest to our readers abroad and will give them an exact presentation of the organizational development of scientific life in Poland. We are starting it with a discussion of the life of science in the university towns, published in Polish in Life of Science Ns. 1—4.

THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Polish science suffered heavy losses during the war. Some of the scientific institutions lost up to 40 per cent of their members. The problem of replacing them by new generations of scientists is far from being an easy one. Inadequate financial conditions before the war had induced many young scientists to turn away from the scientific career, chosing industrial or other more remunerative professions instead. The six wasted years of the occupation tended to make matters still worse. Besides these losses in human beings, science suffered a heavy destruction of buildings, equipment, etc. And to-day scientists are faced by gigantic tasks, which are of a far greater importance than those which had awaited theam before the war. It is enough to mention only the need of schooling the war generation of students, who have not attended regular classes, but got their preparatory training in a rather haphazard way in the secretly conducted underground classes during occupation. The great economic and social changes of to-day have made science the corner-stone of the state's edifice. The Scientific Council, created in connection with the Ministry of Education, will have to help with all these problems and tasks. It will consider the resolutions of the Ministry of Education, will voice its opinion as to them and pass them on. The resolutions tending to remove the war damages in the field of Polish science, having to do with the structure of academic schools, with their programmes and their location, with the organization of scientific research, with scientific publications and the publishing of textbooks, will particularly belong to the scope of the Council's activity. The Minister of Education is the Chairman of this Council, which has a cadence of 2 years. Its first session took place from July 20-23, 1945, and was dedicated to some most urgent problems of academic schools. The

second session took place in March 25-27, 1946, and the problems dealt with during that session had mainly to do with the financial endowments of science. A certain minimum amount for the expenses connected with scientific research was fixed as a permanent position of the budget, a position which should never be reduced. Important resolutions were taken in connection with the filling of University chairs. It was agreed upon that the chairs should be offered to fully qualified scientists only, in spite of a lack of scientists, and extra chairs should be created ad personam for eminent specialists. The Council was filled with deep solicitude by the bad conditions of health prevailing among the students, and resolved to offer them more numerous and better scholarships and food rations. The motion to cancel censorship in scientific matters was considered.

CRACOW

As a result of the criminal methods of the Germans, Cracow has suffered painful and heavy losses among its scientists; its university buildings, however, its laboratories, equipment, books and monuments were relatively slightly damaged. But in spite of the fact that during occupation the public intellectual life was not allowed to exist, Cracow, immediately after regaining its freedom (Jan. 18th, 1945) proceeded with its cultural reconstruction after its former conspired activities. As a result of the destruction of Warsaw and Poznań, and of the fact that Lwów and Wilno no longer belong to Poland, Cracow became for some time the only centre of Polish scientific thought and of the publishing activities, and even to-day it has still retained its importance in that field. Our highest scientific institution, the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters renewed its activities towards the end of January 1945. The losses of the Academy are not so considerable as far as collections and scientific equipment are concerned; the Library and the Museum of Archaelogy and Physiography have been saved, but it struggles with great financial difficulties, and its losess as far as its members are concerned are irreparable. The Academy lost 70 members during the war; new members were elected in July 1945. To-day all the departments of the Academy are already working normally. There appeared the **Yearbooks of the Academy** for the year 1938/39 and for the period 1939/45; **Reports of the activities and meetings of the Academy** for the year 1945 are continuing to appear. The following more important publications are now in the course of preparation: vol. 33 of Estreicher's *Polish Bibliography*, a continuation of the *Polish Dictionary of Biography*, *Monumenta Poloniae Historica*, *Monumenta Poloniae Cartographica* (a second issue, as the first had been destroyed by the Germans), and many others, serving to prove that the Polish Academy od Sciences and Letters wants to make up for all those wasted years and wishes to keep at the head of the intellectual movement in Poland.

Among other scientific institutions, which have taken up their activities again, we should mention: the Historical Society, transferred from its former centre in Lwów; the Society for the History and the Monuments of Cracow which is going to issue a **Cracow Yearbook** dedicated to the history of Cracow

during the years of the occupation; the Association of Polish Librarians and Archivists: its main task at present is to register the losses of the Polish libraries and archives, suffered during the last years; the Polish Geographical Society with its head-office in Warsaw; the Copernicus Society of Polish Scientists with its purely scientific publications: **Kosmos A** and **Kosmos B**, and its more popular periodical the **Universe** (Wszechświat); the Polish Geological Society; the Circle for the Science of Science, founded after the war, devoting itself to problems of the science of science, its periodical being the **Life of Science**. All these numerous institutions, both those mentioned here and some others, are very active in the domain of pure science and also in the field of lectures and popularizing work, and thanks to their activities, Cracow fully deserves to be called the Polish Athens.

LUBLIN

Lublin is one of the few cities of the world possessing two universities: the Catholic University of Lublin of a denominational character to some degree, directly depending on the pope; it is a centre of the humanities. The Marie Curie-Skłodowska University was founded after the war, and it has become a centre of natural sciences. It has 5 faculties: the faculty of natural sciences together with philosophy, psychology and pedagogics, the faculty of medicine, the veterinary faculty, that of pharmaceutics, and that of agriculture. The University is modestly equipped, the library is in the process of being organized, the libraries of the institutes are also limited in number, and their supply of books is rather accidental and occasional, the unsettled conditions on the book-market making a planned and rational organizing of the libraries very difficult. The University got many books as gifts, particularly from the U. S. S. R.; the valuable gift of the French Embassy, a series of very important works dealing with pure science, should also be mentioned here. The Catholic University in Lublin, which had ceased to exist during the occupation together with the rest of the Polish universities, has quickly renewed its activities, in spite of considerable personal and material losses. It has 4 faculties: the faculties of theology, of canon law, of law and social and economic sciences, and of the humanities. After the war a School for Economic and Social Problems of the Countryside was created. Two scientific periodicals are being published in Lublin: **Social and Clinical Medicine**, and **Veterinary Medicine**. We should mention the following scientific societies working there: the Lublin section of the Copernicus Society of Polish Natural Scientists, the Lublin Section of the Biological Society, which again is a branch of the International Biology Association with its seat in Paris, then sections of the Polish Botanical Society and the Polish Geographical Society, of the Ethnographical Society, which continues the work of the 50 years old Etnographical Society of Lwów; the Philosophical and Psychological Society, the Medical Society, the Scientific Society of the Catholic University in Lublin, organizing public lectures in order to popularize science, and lastly the Society of the Friends of Learning.

The following societies have the organization of scientific life in Lublin as their aim: the Trade Union of the Workers of the Academic Schools and Scientific Institutes, the Cath. University Friends Society in Lublin, and the Marie Curie-Skłodowska University Friends Society, which considers the construction of an University City in Lublin to be its main task.

POZNAŃ

Scientific life in Poznań received particularly merciless blows during the occupation; as a result of being annexed to the German Reich nearly all the Polish scientists were deported or taken to concentration camps. After their return they found their workshops mostly in ruins. Only the University Library has been preserved almost entirely. The first thing to do before starting with scientific work was to organize the institutes, to form libraries and to create conditions enabling future work. The Poznań Society of Friends of Learning, existing since 1857 and very well equipped before the war, suffered such heavy losses (having lost a valuable library of more than 138 thous. volumes — only a small fraction of them was saved — and 33 of its members), that it was obliged to start afresh from the very beginnings. Other scientific institutions were in a similar position, all their work and publications destroyed or used for paper mills.

But in spite of all these handicaps, scientific life began its activities almost at once. Besides some sections of the Society of the Friends of Learning, some other institutions started their work, as e. g. the Polish Historical Society, the Copernicus Society of Natural Scientists, the Literary Society, the Psychological Society, which was publishing before the war the **Psychological Quarterly,** a periodical of an international character, and above all the Institute of Sociology, so very important in view of the immense social changes, brought about by the war, and in view of regaining the ancient Polish territories in the West.

These institutions face particular difficulties in connection with the publishing of their pre-war periodicals (such as the **Yearbook of Sociology and Economics,** published in Lwów before the war, **Yearbooks of Agriculture and Forestry, Slavia Occidentalis,** etc.), not bacause of a lack of materials, which are rather plentiful, but because of insufficient financial means. Only two scientific organizations have surmounted these difficulties, namely the Medical Scientific Society, which is publishing the **Medical News,** and the Western Institute being perhaps the most active scientific institution in Poznań, thanks to the actuality of the problems connected with the regained territories. The aims of the Institute are twofold: 1) the scientific aim — to investigate all problems connected with the Polish-German relations, 2) the practical one — as a result of its investigations to offer help and advice to the governmental authorities and social organizations in questions of importance to the state and the society. The scope of its interests is therefore very wide, including prehistory and linguistics on the one hand, and the conditions of life of the Polish population under the occupation on the other. Its chief publications are.

the *Atlas of Geographical Names of the Western Slavs and Documenta Occupationis Teutonicae*, containing authentic German materials from the times of the occupation.

WARSAW

It would seem that Warsaw, ruined in its 85 per cent., with its inhabitants, and its scientists, too, scattered all over the world, could not aspire to be regarded as an intellectual centre of the country, not for long years yet, at any rate. But those who thought so, soon found that they were mistaken. Archivists, librarians and specialists for matters connected with museums entered the city together with the army, trying to save the remains, which the enemy had had no time to destroy, from robbery or from the effects of exposure to bad weather. In this way the National Museum, the University Library, the National Library, the Public Library and some storehouses of the Archives were secured. The representatives of the university came at the same time, in order to see whether they could soon start working again. Both the professors and the students were not dismayed by the complete destruction of their higher schools. Their experiences while working in conspiration taught them to do without proper premises, without books or other equipment, continuing their studies under unbelievably hard conditions. The authorities were at first of the opinion that the existence of higher schools in ruined Warsaw was out of the question for at least 10 years, till the reconstruction of the city was well on its way, and therefore they thought of transferring all academic schools to the other larger towns. But the energy and vitality of the inhabitants solved this problem in an unexpected way, securing for Warsaw, in spite of its destruction, its position of the capital and of the centre of intellectual life. The authorities gradually came to see the wisdom of not abandoning Warsaw, where after all great collections, libraries and archives existed, which it would be technically very difficult, if not impossible, to transfer, and it would be also unwise to leave them lying uselessly for 10 years. It also became necessary to have some higher schools for the steadily increasing number of inhabitants, returning to Warsaw. The Faculty of Medecine was the first to beginn its work, then came the Chief School of Agronomy and Forestry, later on the Chief School of Commerce and two departments of the Polytechnic. In July 1945 the Warsaw University was normally reopened. By doing so, an immense step was taken towards normalizing the intellectual life of the capital, as all the scientific societies were now able to become active once more. Scientists of all kinds were now flocking to Warsaw and finding work at the University or in connection with its institutes. The Warsaw Scientific Society renewed its activities, with naturally only few members at first, but two out of its former four sections began working and secured some publications, which had escaped destruction. The Mianowski Fund, an institution of great merit in the field of national culture, started its work again. Among the institutions well-known before the war, we ought to mention the Warsaw Medical Association, founded in 1821, the Polish Geographical Society, the Polish Physical Society, the

Society of Friends of History, the Lawyers Association in Warsaw, the Warsaw Philosophical Society, the Polish Philological Society, the Scientific Institute for Organization and Management, the Marie Curie-Skłodowska Radium Institute.

New societies were also founded, e. g. the Institute of National Memory, which has the task of studying conditions during the occupation and of collecting materials connected with the underground movement of resistance against the oppressor, the State Institute for the History of Art and the Inventory of Monuments, having a similar task in the realm of art investigations. It takes care of a central library of the history of art, publishes bibliographies from that domain, conducts a central archive of photographic measurements and colour copies, etc. Considering that all this was done within one year, we an safely prediot that the capital will fully regain its due position as the centre of the intellectual life of our country in a relatively short time.

THE DICTIONARY OF POLISH BIOGRAPHY is being published by the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters, and contains short biographies of deceased Polish scientists from the realms of the Polish political history, military history, economic and social history, of Polish culture, science and art, from the beginnings of the existense of our state till the present times. Four volumes and four numbers of that publication appeared before the war, the whole is to have 20 volumes (about 20 thous and biographies). Now number 25 is in print, its price will be about 200 złoty.

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