

LIFE OF SCIENCE

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE SCIENCE OF SCIENCE

Editor: MIECZYŚLAW CHOYNOWSKI

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THE EDUCATIONAL ROLE OF SCIENCE

by MIECZYŚLAW CHOYNOWSKI

SCIENCE is here sociologically understood as a series of activities and their products, which, upon the area embraced by Western culture, are considered to be forming science. Education, as understood by me, consists of complex processes, tending intentionally or unintentionally, to cause a series of lasting changes in an organism, these changes being the result of exercises or of the action of external factors. These changes are accompanied by changes in the behaviour of the given organism, going in the direction assigned by the shaping influence of the social milieu or of its elements.

Science performs its educational role both directly and indirectly. The direct educational role may be observed first of all in cases, when science has an educational influence upon men who work creatively in its field, i. e. upon scientists, then in cases, when science has an educational influence upon men, who are merely its recipients. Science acts indirectly through its practical applications in technology and other domains of life, because these applications tend to produce changes of the social milieu, which again offers a different kind of education to men.

We can, on the other hand, differentiate the educational operations of scientific activities from scientific products. Scientific activities act directly solely upon those who busy themselves with them. Scientific products act both directly upon all those, who acquire the knowledge of science, and indirectly by practical applications based on science, and finding an echo in the views and manners of men.

Those, busy with scientific pursuits, shape their perception, develop a quickness of observation, form a favourable organization of habits. Their perseverance, sense of duty, orderliness, industry, ability for concentrated effort and concentration in their interests are further results of such pursuits,

which develop keen perception, a critical attitude and strictly logical reasoning imagination, memory and intelligence are likewise developed, intellectual honesty, disinterestedness and objectivity are inculcated too.

The influence of scientific knowledge and of the milieu transformed by science are more important from the point of view of culture, both when forming the foundations of everyday life and when influencing the general outlook upon the world. The influence of particular sciences is here less important than the assets of science in general in relation to man and culture.

Man is indebted to science for getting to know his place in the universe, for the confidence in his own strength in his struggle with nature, for understanding, that religious and philosophical tenets are not reliable. Further in this list we should mention: empirism, a critical and sceptical attitude, not acknowledging accepted authorities, relativism, a love of truth, boldness of thought, progressiveness, perception of the dangers of a narrow specialization, planning, a dislike for a magical and mythological way of thinking, sympathy with mankind in general, liberation of one's personal life from the bonds of irrational prohibitions, a new conception of morals, tolerance, and lastly, the joy we feel when communing with science. It need hardly be stressed that the above given traits are far from being universal, and will not become so for a long time yet, even among scientists.

I was trying to present here tendencies, which may be found with many men in various countries, tendencies which seem to me to be the result of the development and of the educational influence of science. I also think, that nothing will finally stop the evolution of man and culture, going in this direction. although at present the actual educational influence of science is relatively small, as science is universally esteemed for its scientific and practical values, not for its educational values. But our culture tends more and more to become a scientific culture, and we may hope, that after having once understood the social and educational role of science, our attitude and our approach towards it will fundamentally change too, as soon as we perceive that its results are not so valuable, as the participation of science in making our world better, and in rendering human life fuller and happier.

CIRCLE FOR THE SCIENCE OF SCIENCE, KRAKÓW

POSSIBILITIES OF FUTURE TECHNOLOGIC DEVELOPMENT

by WATSON DAVIS

Address before Section K of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, St. Louis, March 27, 1946, sent specially by the author for the LIFE OF SCIENCE.

When speaking about technologic progress, hereby meaning most often purely materialistic conquests of technology, we look with fervent hope into the future, without being satisfied with the present. But the future is the result of the present and the past. Future technology will not depend on money,

that America abounds with, but on the future state of science, of natural resources, and, first of all, on future men. But we lack suitable men even now, because we were wasting that most valuable element of our future in quite an inconsiderate way, and are persisting in doing so now, too. The ability to do creative research work is a rare thing and should be protected accordingly. Instead of doing so, we meet to-day with cases of young scientists in spe being forcibly enrolled into the army. Nothing is also done to encourage young people to devote themselves to science. The United States have a shortage of about 15 thous. scientific workers. One part of scientific workers must devote itself to scientific communication or intelligence, indispensable for the planning of research work on a larger scale, in which newest methods and technological discoveries should be used, with microfilms, selecting devices, and even radio inclusively. Scientific intelligence deserves to be realized within the scope of the U.N.E.S.C.O. all over the world. We are being very uneconomical as far as raw materials are concerned, and we forget, that we may be faced by a lack of something in the future. Gold and paper credits are not at the foundations of technologic development, but tin, lead, rubber, etc. Scientific thinking is useful not only in laboratories; it should be applied to international problems, to governing and politics, and thanks to it, life could become calmer. Statesmen should be advised not only by economists and atomic physicists, but also by psychologists and psychiatrists. The knowledge of the fundamental laws of human nature — be it British, Russian, or American — may prove very helpful in eliminating international, race or class conflicts.

SCIENCE SERVICE, WASHINGTON D. C.

SOME COMMENTARIES UPON „SCIENCE AND SOCIETY“

by JANUSZ CHMIELEWSKI

MR. CHOYNOWSKI'S article „Science and Society“ (LIFE OF SCIENCE, No. 1) contains many interesting ideas, with which we may agree, but it should hardly be considered as the last word in this matter. It is rather the beginning of a discussion upon the subject treated by him. Scientists may bear the responsibility for the ill uses of scientific discoveries, but only if they consciously seek to attain results, which might lead to immoral application in practice. More dangerous are „socially conscious“ scientists, who work on destructive weapons or who falsify truth for political reasons, than those scientists, for whom the pursuit of pure science itself is the final aim. It is difficult too, to accept the author's idea of the leading role of scientists in the social life of the collectivity, because the intellect and the conscience are representing two different and often diverging realms in the spiritual life of an individual. It is therefore risky to burden the scientists with the additional task of educating the community and of leading it. It is a methodological misunderstanding to wish to found collective life upon social and psychological

sciences, developed as highly as technology is, together with physics and chemistry, because it reminds us of the antiquated and unscientific belief in the possibility of a mechanical grasping and explaining of the world at large. And finally it is difficult to agree with the author, when he tells us that science itself may ethically reform and regenerate society. This role should belong rather to the realization of a Christian programme of ethics.

UNIVERSITY OF ŁÓDŹ

HISTORY OF LAW AS COMPARED WITH HISTORY; A PROBLEM OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF SCIENCE

By WŁADYSŁAW SOBOCIŃSKI

THE WORKING OUT of a uniform system of sciences or of their consistently constructed classification forms one of the tasks of the science of science. We are sorry to say, that an almost pre-scientific state is reigning in that field, as contrasted with the state of other sciences, which already have accepted classifications of the subjects of their researches. There is no classification of sciences, however, though there have been many endeavours to build one.

As far as the history of law is concerned, its subject is law, which is no longer in force, regarded from a historical point of view, as it has been developing in time. In the system of sciences the history of law occupies the crossing point of the two criteria of the general division — the criterion of the subject („law") and that of the approach to the given subject (the historic grasp). Each subject may have a history of its own, and each science, seen from another point of view, may have its own suitable companion in history. We have a history of literature, of economy, of medicine, of art, etc.

There are, however, other ways leading to the perception of history. Some historians regard themselves as simply historians, without any additions, and according to them history is one science, an integral history or polyhistory, the subject of which may be every social, political, economical, linguistic, or any other, phenomenon. Other historians again understand under history political history exclusively, there are some, who (Langlois-Seignobos) speak of a „general history", dealing with facts, evading the limits of various particular histories or branches of history. We think their view to be erroneous. The word „history" may be used as a shortened appellation of all historical sciences, and in this sense, history of law is part of the history, ranking equally with political or any other history.

To elaborate the classification of sciences is a task, which should be undertaken collectively by representatives of various sciences, but the scientists should pay here a greater attention to problems of methodology, and of the science of science. Every scientist should cultivate science of

science upon his own sector, thus avoiding narrow-minded specialization. Such broader interests of scientists may tend to decrease the scientific productivity in their special field, but they would have a most beneficial influence upon the development of the science as a whole.

SEMINAR OF HISTORY OF LAW, JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, KRAKOW

A DEFENSE OF STATISTICS

by WACŁAW SKRZYWAN

AS A RESULT of a series of misunderstandings, caused by certain statisticians, the so-called mathematical statistics is one of the most neglected fields of science. This state may most fatally affect the progress of many scientific disciplines, the development of which has lately become closely connected with the use of statistical and mathematical methods of knowledge and construction. A certain divergence from life's processes is noticeable here; we are introducing planned economy, creating a great number of statistical offices and departments, we are in need of specialists in that field, but at the same time we banish statistics as an obligatory examination subject from our universities. Statistics do not consist of numerical data (these belong to statistical sources), neither does the act of collecting them make statistics (this is the technique of statistics), it is a science dealing with the methods of obtaining knowledge, and it helps us to make our knowledge accurate. The logic of probability is at the base of statistical methods. Many branches of science would not develop further without elaborated statistical data, because to-day, instead of making discoveries, we mathematically formulate hypotheses and prove them statistically. The need of having both technically and scientifically trained statisticians is therefore most urgent, and the tendency to introduce statistics into secondary vocational schools is highly justifiable.

FACULTY OF LAW, JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, KRAKÓW

THE ORGANIZATION OF POLISH SCIENCE

By JAN MYDLARSKI

POLISH science has not been so far organized in a way, tending to abolish contradictions and to assure a proper coordination of organizatory and scientific labours. In all the projects, proposed thus far, we do not find a central organization, such as the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters, for instance. It seems that the Academy lacks the necessary authority among scientists, among the representants of the State and among the community, too.

Of fundamental importance to the Academy are its active members

who choose new active members and correspondent members, and who establish commissions for special ends, comprising non-members of the Academy, too. The way of conferring the membership might, to a certain degree, involve the danger of choosing candidates, representing one trend of science only, or one milieu solely, instead of the entire Polish science. Conducted researches depend on the energy of a chance team of the Academy's members. Its publishing activities, however, are of the greatest merit.

I propose to reorganize the structure of the Academy so as to do away with its deficiencies, and thus to create a central organ. The Academy should be the Parliament of Polish Science. Scientific societies comprising all specialities, officially appointed to that end and having all scientific workers within their bounds, should take care of the development of their respective specialities, of their professional interests and of the conferring of chairs or appointing the members of the institutes. They would also appoint their delegates for a term of several years, who would form the body of the proposed Academy of Sciences and Letters. This Academy would have a board of its own, it would be a central scientific organization, planning and taking care of the coordination of research work, and also being a mediator between the state and the science.

A college of honorary members, appointed for life, would exist side by side with it; the state ought to secure their existence financially. They would take part in the activities of the Academy only if elected as temporary members by the Societies.

The Academy, organized in such a way, might also replace trade unions of scientific workers and all separately existing Scientific Councils. Boards of Academic Schools, etc. An Undersecretary of State for Science would represent science within the government.

INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE MARIE CURIE-SKŁODOWSKA UNIVERSITY,
LUBLIN

EXPERIENCES AND REMARKS OF A SEMINAR DIRECTOR by ROMAN POLLAK

AMONG the problems, connected with the structure of a literary seminar, two are of the greatest importance: the rational selection of students in the progressing years of study and the structure of the higher seminar. The selection should not be based upon passed examinations only as the element of chance plays an important part in the process of examining. A student ought to be judged according to his active part in the seminar meetings, papers and discussions. To make the rational selection of students better, it were desirable to have a considerable amount of seminar exercises for freshmen, while for advanced students their number might decrease. Examinations would be of a secondary significance. Very important for this selection is a division of the seminar into grades. To-day we have two grades of

the seminar (the lower or the basic one, and the higher, devoted to specialization), but this appears to be insufficient. I would divide the lower seminar into two groups: the one for freshmen, the other for students of the second year, as a transition to the higher seminar. Every member of the latter seminar is obliged to write one paper a year and one critical essay; this limits the number of the participants and the seminar should therefore have several subdivisions. Scientific circles and research societies of the students would form an extension of the seminar and could deepen its range of work.

SEMINAR OF POLISH LITERATURE, UNIVERSITY OF POZNAN

ORGANIZATION OF MEDECINE IN GREAT-BRITAIN

by STANISŁAW LIWSZYC-TOMASIK

THE ORGANIZATIONAL structure of British medical science was, till recently, greatly complicated, thanks to specific local conditions, to tradition and the British character. Violent cataclysms, such as the economic crisis, unemployment, and particularly the last two wars, were necessary to produce change in that field, namely a more rational planning in accordance with universal needs. When schooling future physicians a minimum of medical science to be acquired by them is stressed, and it consists of theoretical knowledge together with hospital practice. Within the field of medical research work we may notice the tendency towards unifying all research institutes, according to one plan. The Medical Research Council, founded as far back as 1931, pursues this objective. In the realm of social organization the postulate to ensure full medical aid (in clinics, hospitals or at home) to all British citizens (85 per cent of inhabitants so far) is of the greatest importance. This helps to prevent the spreading of dangerous diseases, thanks to the free hospital treatment of serious contagious diseases. As far as the fight against tuberculosis is concerned, we should point out the interesting fact, that closed settlements for tubercular patients are being organized, where they may live with their families. Widely organized emergency help for the army and the civilians should be noted too. This immense progress of British medicine is above all based upon the recognition of its social importance by the entire British community.

KRAKÓW

THE BUDGET OF THE PLANNED UNDERSECRETARYSHIP OF STATE FOR QUESTION OF SCIENCE

by LUDWIK SAWICKI

THE BUDGET, as proposed here, is an experimental budget of science. It is an extraordinary budget, connected with the 5 years' plan of reconstruc-

tion of our entire organizational apparatus of science. Due to immense losses in national wealth, it was expected that the state would be able to assign modest sums only for scientific ends. But reality proved to be far worse than the expectations; sums assigned for science are in no rational relation to the most urgent needs in that field, as they amount at the best to 1% of the total of expenditures of the Ministry of Education. If we add sums assigned to science by other departments, we shall see that the total state expenditure for science amounts to 0,38% of the entire state budget. The reconstruction of our science claims: 1) a 5 years' plan for its realization, 2) a special extraordinary endowment for each budget year. When constructing the above given plan, the following postulates were stated: 1) the necessity of radically improving the conditions of life of scientific workers, 2) the necessity to secure the existence of students, predestined to be future scientists, 3) the necessity of making investments, 4) the necessity of raising endowments for the promotion of scientific production.

The final total of the planned budget closes with 1,643,975.000 zł.

STATE MUSEUM OF ARCHEOLOGY, WARSAW

THE SECTION *News and Views* begins with an article on Herbert George Wells — who is represented as a humanist and scientist (a rare combination in one personality) — and his predictions of the future. His *Encyclopaedia of the World* is broadly discussed; its organization is put down in his own words, and stress is laid on the *Encyclopaedia's* moral value.

The rest of this section contains following chapters: *The role of Universities in international cooperation* (based on the article of Dr B. M. Cherrington in NEW YORK TIMES), *Lectures or Conversatories?* (the plan of an experiment is proposed to compare the value of lectures and examinations as a means of gaining knowledge against conversatories and seminars); *Man and scientific organisation of work* (against wasting valuable time and work); *Law in a planned political structure*; *Some indications from the past* (in 1922 Kazimierz Morawski wrote a booklet on work and science as the foundations of a new Poland; until to-day his remarks are quite timely); and *Something worse than contradiction* (two articles beginning a discussion of the forms of an association of scientific workers have been published; no reaction has been observed).

Following this comes the chronicle of scientific life in Poland; it contains an account of the annual public meeting of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters (Cracow, June, 19th, 1946); a fuller account in English will appear in our next issue. Then goes the description of university chairs and seminars devoted to the problem of adult education in Poland. The meetings of the Polish Mathematical Society, of the Scientific Council for Western Territories, and of the Polish Philological Society are discussed. A short chronicle, a review of new bills concerning science, and a review of the press follow.

The section *Science abroad* contains articles on the World Federation of Scientific Workers, on the French *Centre National de la recherche scientifique*, and on the filials of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. *Science in Germany*,

(from THE SPECTATOR, NEUE PHYSIKALISCHE BLATTER, and NATURE). *Cooperation of industry with science* (see NATURE No. 3995), and *The National Physical Laboratory and Cavendish Laboratory* (from DISCOVERY and a book by A. Wood) follow. Lastly come *English free-thinkers and humanism*, *The U.S.A. Roster of Specialists*, and an obituary of the late Dr Otto Neurath, one of the founders of logical empiricism, editor of *The Encyclopaedia of Unified Science*, and the creator of „Isotype“, International Picture Language.

SCIENCES AND LETTERS IN POLAND

THIS IS a continuation of the more detailed chronicle of scientific life in Poland, only shortly mentioned in the former numbers of LIFE OF SCIENCE, and begun in No. 6. We start with the description of the rest of Polish university towns reviewed until now, and insert notes on many scientific societies and institutions.

GDAŃSK AND GDYNIA

Gdańsk, though badly ruined, quickly recovered its status of a centre of a lively scientific movement, as the seat of two higher schools. The Polytechnic (Technical College) in Gdańsk has 6 faculties: that of Mechanics, of Electrotechnics, of Shipbuilding, of Land and Water Engineering, of Chemistry, and of Architecture. A School of Wood Industry is to be called to life very soon. The main building of the Polytechnic is almost entirely destroyed, its library is burnt down and its scientific equipment far from sufficient. The Medical Academy is in a better condition, though far from satisfactory too, but the Clinics are splendid. Next year the Academy is planning to open a department of stomatology and a scientific Institute for Sea Diseases and one for Tropical Diseases.

The Society of the Friends of Learning in Gdańsk has become active once more, and it is planning to republish the twelfth YEARBOOK OF GDAŃSK, completely destroyed in 1939.

Gdynia possesses only one higher school, namely the Higher School of Sea Trade, opened in November 1945.

ŁÓDŹ

After the war Łódź became an university town with 4 academic schools; the Łódź University with its 7 faculties (its chief aim is to come into contact with the broad masses of the workers in Łódź and to create progressive forms of their scientific education); the Łódź Polytechnic with its 3 faculties; the Commercial High School, a branch of the Warsaw Chief School of Commerce. It specializes in administration of the producing industries, especially the metal and textile industries. Connected with it are courses in

banking, insurance, cooperatives, fiscal administration, the organization and administration of concerns, each course lasting one year. The Higher School of Rural Economy is a non-academic higher school, giving the degree of an engineer.

Many of the scientific societies quoted below were founded before the war: the Society of the Friends of Learning, which, besides other publications, is going to publish Scientific News, giving information about the development of science; the Łódź section of the Polish Historical Society, which is preparing to publish the oldest city records from the years 1476—1528; the Municipal Archives, a scientific institution possessing 200 thous. of valuable old volumes and a rich cartographic collection; the Polish Institute of Sociology, dealing with social problems in connection with regional and national questions; the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology.

Public University Lectures for the broad masses are frequently being organized in Łódź.

TORUŃ

Toruń became an university town only after this war. It had a scientific life of its own before the war, it is true, having its Scientific Society (founded in 1875), and its Baltic Institute, but it was only after the founding of the Nicolaus Copernicus University that Toruń became the centre of the scientific and artistic life of the NW part of Poland. Its University has 4 faculties: the Faculty of the Humanities, of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, of Law and Sociology, and of Art. The Faculty of the Humanities possesses the only Chair of Slav Literatures (including Russian) in Poland. The greatest obstacle in their work is the lack of books and scientific equipment. The founding of the University has influenced the development of scientific societies. The Scientific Society at Toruń has already three active departments (that of history and archaeology, of mathematics and natural sciences, and of law), and it endeavours to pursue its works on strictly scientific lines.

The Baltic Institute, another scientific organization, which formerly had its seat at Toruń, was in its major part transferred to Gdynia already before the war. Its last section (for the knowledge of Pomerania) is at present in Bydgoszcz. The publishing activities of this Institute were represented before the war by the imposing number of a thousand of bibliographical items. These publications were destroyed by the war, but at present new publications are appearing fast, and much has been done, considering the short time since the Institute resumed its activities. Besides this Institute many branch offices of other Polish scientific societies are being opened at Toruń, e. g. that of the Copernicus Society of Polish Natural Scientists, of the Polish Historical Society, of the Western Institute, etc.

THE TRADE UNION OF THE ART AND CULTURE HISTORIANS

By WŁODZIMIERZ ANTONIEWICZ

The Trade Union of Art Historians was founded in 1929, with its seat in Cracow. The aims of the Association are: 1) the defense of the social status and interests of the Art Historians, 2) mutual contacts and mutual information as to works begun or results attained, 3) care as to the professional niveau attained by the members, 4) work to help create a proper relationship of the community towards Art.

After the war, the Association resumed its work already in March 1945, with an increased number of members, as it was joined by the Historians of Culture too. The central authorities of the Association were transferred to Warsaw. A Congress of the Delegates of the Association took place in Cracow on August 31, 1945.

THE WARSAW UNIVERSITY

THE WESTERN INSTITUTE

By MIECZYSLAW SUCHOCKI

The Western Institute is an institution dedicated to scientific research and it wishes to propagate scientific truth only. But its aim is also to popularize the scientific achievements, both among ourselves and abroad, immediately after having attained them by strictly scientific methods, and by doing so, to serve our community in its struggle for its national existence. Poznań is the seat of the Institute. It is therefore closely connected with the University of Poznań; the Chancellor of that University is always a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute. On the 27 of February 1946 a year elapsed since its foundation, and the results of that year's work are shown in the PRZEGLĄD ZACHODNI (Western Review), No 3.

The Institute has several sections, each of them has its own special task. The Prehistorical Section has lately done excavations in the region of the Łoniewski Lake. The Ethnographical Section has, among others, the aim of eliminating from Polish science false German suggestions and tendentious views upon the culture of the Western Slavs. The Geographical Section is busy with geographical descriptions of the regained territories. The Onomastic Section establishes the old Polish place-names in the Western territories. A Polish-German and German-Polish dictionary of these place-names is being prepared for publication. The section having to do with the documents of German crimes in Poland is particularly busy. Its work resulted in the published collection of authentic documents, entitled *Documenta occupationis Teutonicae*. The first volume contains a memorandum of one of the German scientific institutes advocating the utmost exploitation of the Polish workers in Silesia, whom they hoped to reduce this way to a state of complete misery. The second volume illustrates the German crimes in Warsaw with the help of

authentic records. This section publishes also its investigations in the publication entitled: Investigations concerning the German occupation in Poland. There is also a Legal Section, which conducts legally the national rehabilitation of former members of the *Volksdeutsch* lists, an Economic Section of the Polish Western Lands, and lastly a Section dedicated to the observation of contemporary changes taking place in Germany and of the development of the relationship of other countries to the Germans living in those territories.

The Western Institute issues a number of important publications. Besides the publications of its several sections, the publishing department issued many fundamental works, amongst which the most important form a series entitled: Works of the Western Institute.

THE WESTERN INSTITUTE, POZNAN

THE POLISH COPERNICUS ASSOCIATION OF NATURAL SCIENTISTS

The Polish Copernicus Association of Natural Scientists is one of the oldest Polish scientific associations. Founded in 1875 in Lwów, it slowly developed into a powerful organization of natural scientists with more than 1.000 members all over the country. Its scientific and publishing activity was condensed into the 54 volumes of the publication KOSMOS. Since 1930 WSZECHŚWIAT (THE UNIVERSE) began to appear side by side with the first. It was dedicated to popularizing natural sciences. KOSMOS participated in a lively exchange of periodicals with other natural science associations abroad, and this gave rise to the greatest collection of natural science periodicals in Poland (over 4.000 publications). After a 6 years' pause, caused by the war, the Association renewed its activities on May 10, 1945. WSZECHŚWIAT began to appear again in September 1945. Delegates from all branches of the Association (Warszawa, Poznań, Lublin and Toruń) together with the newly formed branch in Wrocław, met at the congress on February 19, 1946. Prof. W. Rogala was elected chairman of the Executive Board, vice-chairmen: T. Estreicher, T. Wojno and G. Poluszyński. The decision to start publishing KOSMOS again was one of the most important among the resolutions of the congress.

THE POLISH ECONOMICAL SOCIETY

The all-Polish Economical Society was founded in December, 1945, to take the place of the numerous pre-war economical associations in several towns. The seat of the Board is in Warsaw; the Association has branches in Kraków, Łódź, Lublin and Poznań. Prof. Edward Lipiński is its chairman, vice-chairmen are: Prof. Stefan Zalewski and Prof. Witold Krzyżanowski. Polish economists have lost many of their colleagues during the war, a loss the more deeply felt, because younger economists devote themselves to-

day to practical work rather than to science. One of the most urgent objectives of the Association was to publish again *THE ECONOMIST*, besides other publications dealing with current problems. As usual, the shortage of funds had to be faced, besides material losses (devastated libraries, lost manuscripts, etc.). Polish economists concentrate to-day upon problems, having to do with the history of economic war on our territory and upon questions of planned economy to be realized in our country.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PROGRESS

Not long ago the National Institute of Progress was organized at Poznań, with Prof. Czesław Znamierowski at its head, the author of an article *On Conservatism and Conservatism* (1927), in which he fundamentally analysed the complex of psychic dispositions of conservatism.

The National Institute of Progress has as its objective to combat psychic resistance, resulting from civilizational backwardness, to show new paths in life and to search for best structural forms. It seems that the Institute should also try to extend scientific methods into life and to popularize science intensively.

SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS DEALING WITH PLEISTOCENE PROBLEMS

A scientific congress dedicated to problems of Pleistocene took place in Kraków, March 1--3, 1946, under auspices of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters. The congress was inaugurated by Prof. dr. Gustaw Przychocki, elected to the chair were: Professors Władysław Szafer, Karol Bohdanowicz and Eugeniusz Romer. In his inaugural address Prof. Szafer defined the programme and the objective of the congress. He mentioned previous Pleistocene congresses, and stated that, as a result of the shifting of Polish borders to the west, problems of the former eastern territories abounding with diluvial phenomena are no longer of moment to us, we must, instead, examine the western territories. Poland offers a rich choice of Pleistocene problems (three quarters of the Polish substratum belonging to the Pleistocene), which should be handled by team work, and a full survey of other fields should be undertaken, particularly the question of climate, of geology and morphology, Diluvial cartography, stratigraphy and the Palaeolithic. Prof. M. Klimaszewski had then a paper on the Climate of the Glacial Epoch, giving a survey of up to date examinations in that field. Prof. J. Tokarski spoke of Pleistocene Rocks, Prof. Romer of Erratic Blocks, particularly in north-eastern territories in Poland, Assistant Prof. B. Haliński, dr. F. Rühle, Prof. Szafer of Floristic Problems, Director J. Stach: Questions of Fauna; Assistant Prof. A. Kosiba: Polish Polar Expeditions. The final resolution, passed at the congress, demanded the forming of the following scientific organizations: Commission for Pleistocene Research,

affiliated to the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters, the Board of Diluvial Congresses, special research institutes, dealing with particular problems and a Polish section of I.N.Q.U.A.

CONGRESS OF THE POLISH ZOOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The first Congress of the Polish Zoological Association after the war took place in Kraków, on April 25—27, 1946. New executive members were elected — Prof. W. Stefański — chairman, Prof. Z. Grodziński and Assistant, Prof. M. Gieysztor — vice-chairmen. The list of members shows that 55 out of 309 pre-war members were the victims of the war. Following papers were read: Prof. S. Smreczyński stressed the necessity to replace the too many pre-war publications by a chosen few with a tradition of valuable work behind them; Prof. Grodziński took up the problem of schooling young scientists; Prof. W. Stefański spoke about scientific prizes; dr. J. Ruszkowski dealt with the Polish terminology in zoology. Further scientific papers were read by: Assistant Prof. B. Szabuniewicz, dr. J. Ackermann, Prof. M. Bogucki, Prof. J. Mydlarski, Prof. T. Marchlewski and Prof. F. Pautsch. In connection with the congress the Polish Section of the International Association for Bison Reserve Parks held its meeting and Director J. Zabiński was elected its chairman. Towards the end of the congress a resolution was passed, condemning the crimes of German zoologists, perpetrated in Poland, where they plundered our property and scientific equipment, and demanding instant restitution of zoological property stolen in Poland, and punishment for their deeds.

The annual foreign subscription rate is 5.00 Dollars.

Subscriptions and all other communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR „ŻYCIE NAUKI”, KRAKÓW, SŁOWACKIEGO 66, POLAND.

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WYDAWNICTWA NADEŚLANE

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