

The Foundation of the Polish Medical Faculty within the University of Edinburgh, Scotland

BY

Professor A. T. JURASZ
Dean of the Polish Medical Faculty

[*Reprinted from the PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE, December, 1941, Vol. XXXV, No. 2, pp. 133-140, (Section of the History of Medicine, pp. 17-24).*]



JOHN BALE & STAPLES LIMITED
83-91 GREAT TITCHFIELD STREET LONDON W1

1941

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THE PRESIDENT, in introducing Professor Jurasz, said the Section was celebrating a historic occasion. Professor Antoni Jurasz was born in Heidelberg. He was a son of Professor Jurasz who held the Chairs of Laryngology in the Universities of Heidelberg, Lwow and Poznan. His mother was Caroline Gaspey, a daughter of Dr. Thomas Gaspey, lecturer in English in the University of Heidelberg. He studied at Heidelberg, London, Königsberg, and Leipzig so that he had had a large experience. Before the war Professor Jurasz was President of the Society of Polish Surgeons, President of the Society of Surgeons and Orthopedists of Western Poland and President of the Red Cross of Poland. He would tell them of the foundation of the Polish Medical Faculty at Edinburgh University, the first Polish medical school to be established outside its own country, which, it had been hinted, would be the precursor of a good many more. The occasion was unique and historic because of this fact.

STRESZCZENIE REFERATU, WYGŁOSZONEGO PRZEZ PROF. DR. A. JURASZA
w dniu 6.XI.1941 r. w Royal Society of Medicine, w Londynie

Dziękując na wstępie za zaszczyt zaproszenia go do Royal Society of Medicine dla wygłoszenia referatu w Sekcji Historii "Royal Society of Medicine", prof. dr. A. Jurasz zaznacza, iż mniejwięcej przed 12 laty miał już zaszczyt przemawiać w tym Towarzystwie na temat, zaczerpnięty z jego specjalności, a więc chirurgii, a właściwie—urologii. Obecnie tematem referatu jest historia powstania Polskiego Wydziału Lekarskiego w Edynburgu.

Po naszkicowaniu okoliczności, w których we wrześniu 1939 r., Polska, napadnięta przez wojska Hitlera, po bohaterskiej obronie, uległa przeważającej militarnej sile niemieckiej, prof. Jurasz przechodzi do bardziej szczegółowego omówienia tych systematycznych i celowych prześladowań, którym ulegają od dwóch zgorą lat, nauka i kultura polska na ziemiach okupowanych przez najeźdźców.

Zamknięcie wszystkich szkół wyższych i średnich, obrabowanie wszystkich zakładów naukowych i bibliotek w Polsce, uwięzienie setek profesorów uniwersytetów w Krakowie, Warszawie, Lwowie, Wilnie i Poznaniu—wszystko to w oświadczeniu Generalnego Gubernatora ziem okupowanych, Franka, znalazło następującą motywację: "Naród Polski nie potrzebuje wykształcenia. Elementarne szkoły są najzupełniej wystarczające. Wyższe zakłady naukowe w Polsce nigdy nie zostaną ponownie otwarte. Polska natomiast będzie "pustynią intelektualną". Postępując w myśl tej barbarzyńskiej zasady Niemcy usiłują wypłenić w Polsce to wszystko, co reprezentuje jej wiedzę, jej kulturę duchową, jej sztukę i literaturę. O systematyczności, z jaką Niemcy przeprowadzają rabunek polskich zakładów naukowych, bibliotek i pracowni, świadczy, iż na czele specjalnych komisji przybyłych do miast uniwersyteckich, celem wywiezienia do Niemiec bądź całych działów bibliotecznych, bądź też całkowitych urządzeń zakładów naukowych /Instytut Fizyczny przy Uniwersytecie Warszawskim/ stali profesorowie niemieccy, posiłkujący się dawnymi rachunkami firm niemieckich, które dostarczały do Polski aparaty i dzieła naukowe. Działając więc przy pomocy teroru, obozów koncentracyjnych, grabieży i rzekomych "konfiskat", Niemcy dążą świadomie do obrócenia Polski w "pustynię intelektualną".

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Przechodząc do historii powstania Polskiego Wydziału Lekarskiego w Edynburgu, prof. dr. A. Jurasz szczegółowo omawia okoliczności, w jakich zrodziła się ta myśl.

W czerwcu 1940 r., po katastrofie Francji, część wojsk polskich znalazła się w Wielkiej Brytanii, a ściślej mówiąc, w Szkocji. W jednym z obozów znajdowała się znaczna ilość polskich lekarzy wojskowych. Pułkownik Irvin Fortescu, który był wówczas oficerem łącznikowym pomiędzy władzami brytyjskimi a dowództwem wojsk polskich w Szkocji, stwierdziwszy, iż w okresie reorganizacji wojsk armii polskiej nie wszyscy lekarze polscy znajdą zatrudnienie, wystąpił z propozycją by lekarze specjaliści udali się na pewien czas do wojskowego szpitala w Edynburgu na staż oraz dla nawiązania pierwszych kontaktów z miejscowym światem lekarskim. Komendantem szpitala wojskowego /Castle Military Hospital/ w Edynburgu był ppłk. prof. Crew, który nie tylko zaakceptował ten projekt, lecz następnie, dowiedziawszy się iż pomiędzy przebywającymi w Szkocji polskimi lekarzami wojskowymi znajduje się, z jednej strony, znaczna ilość profesorów wykładowców polskich wydziałów medycznych—z drugiej strony—znaczna ilość absolwentów i studentów polskich wydziałów lekarskich, wystąpił z projektem, by w porozumieniu z fakultetem medycznym Uniwersytetu w Edynburgu, utworzyć Polski Wydział Lekarski przy tymże Uniwersytecie, dając tą drogą możliwość profesorom i wykładowcom polskim kontynuacji ich pracy naukowej, zaś absolwentom i studentom ukończenia ich studjów lekarskich.

Projekt ten znalazł aprobatę polskich władz wojskowych, a Szef Służby Zdrowia I Korpusu, stacjonującego w Szkocji, płk. dr. Kurtz, popierany przez generała Kukiela, dowódcę Wojsk polskich w Szkocji, wystosował raport do Naczelnego Wodza w Londynie z przedstawieniem całej sprawy. Szef Służby Zdrowia Sztabu Naczelnego Wodza, płk. dr. Gergovich przedstawił sprawę Generałowi Sikorskiemu i uzyskał jego aprobatę. Minister Spraw Wewnętrznych, prof. Stanisław Kot, uznając wielką doniosłość dla nauki polskiej utworzenia Wydziału Lekarskiego w Edynburgu, udzielił entuzjastycznego poparcia całej sprawie i, na podstawie uchwały Rady Ministrów 22 października 1940 r. upoważnił prof. dr. A. Jurasza do prowadzenia pertraktacji w imieniu Rządu w sprawie utworzenia Polskiego Wydziału Lekarskiego przy Uniwersytecie w Edynburgu.

Przedstawiona przez ppłk. prof. Crew Wydziałowi Lekarskiemu w Edynburgu sprawa utworzenia Polskiego Wydziału Lekarskiego przy tym Uniwersytecie, została przez Dziekana tego Wydziału prof. Sydney Smith i cały Wydział jednomyślnie zaakceptowana. Rektor Uniwersytetu Sir Thomas Holland, również i Senat Uniwersytecki wyrazili swą aprobatę.

Rozpoczęły się pertraktacje, w których ze strony polskiej uczestniczył Komitet Organizacyjny w osobach: prof. Jurasz—przewodniczący, członkowie: prof. J. Fegler /Kraków/, prof. W. Koskowski /Lwów/, prof. Lakner /Poznań/, prof. Rogalski /Kraków/, prof. Rostowski /Lwów/, oraz Szef Służby Zdrowia Armii Polskiej płk. dr. Gergovich.

W dniu 24 lutego 1940 r. umowa, dotycząca utworzenia Polskiego Wydziału Lekarskiego przy Uniwersytecie w Edynburgu, została podpisana pomiędzy Rządem Polskim a Uniwersytetem Edynburskim.

W dniu 22 marca 1941 r. w obecności Prezydenta Rzplitej i przedstawicieli Rządu Brytyjskiego, Miasta Edynburga, władz uniwersyteckich, odbyła się uroczysta inauguracja Polskiego Wydziału Lekarskiego w Edynburgu.

Spis profesorów i wykładowców Polskiego Wydziału Lekarskiego

prof. dr. A. Jurasz /Dziekan/	chirurgia	Uniwers. Poznań
prof. dr. J. Fegler	fizjologia	„ Kraków
prof. dr. W. Koskowski	farmakologia	„ Lwów
prof. dr. L. Lakner	stomatologia	„ Poznań
prof. dr. T. Rogalski	anatomia	„ Kraków
prof. dr. J. Rostowski	neurologia i psychiatria	„ Lwów
prof. dr. B. Nowakowski	higiena	„ Wilno
doc. dr. A. Elektorowicz	radiologia	„ Warszawa
doc. dr. A. Fidler	choroby wewnętrzne	„ Warszawa
doc. dr. M. Kostowiecki	histologia	„ Lwów
doc. dr. E. Mystkowski	chemia	„ Warszawa
doc. dr. H. Reiss	dermatologia	„ Kraków
doc. dr. B. Sliżyński	biologia	„ Kraków
doc. dr. W. Tomaszewski	choroby wewnętrzne	„ Poznań

dr. B. Czemplik	fizyka	Uniwers. Poznań
dr. J. Dekański	toksykologia	„ Warszawa
dr. J. Iwaszkiewicz	otolaryngologia	„ Poznań
dr. J. Kochanowski	radiologia	„ Warszawa
dr. Z. Malkiewicz	pediatria	„ Kraków
dr. R. Rejthar	metody znieczulania	„ Poznań
dr. J. Ruzkowski	okulistyka	„ Warszawa
dr. T. Sokołowski	chirurgia urazowa	„ Warszawa
dr. W. Stocki	anatomia patologiczna	„ Poznań
dr. C. Uhma	ginekologia	„ Kraków

Prof. dr. Jurasz przedstawia warunki pracy w ciągu minionego roku akademickiego zaznaczając, iż odbywała się ona w atmosferze najserdeczniejszej współpracy z władzami uniwersyteckimi, władzami Royal Infirmary, oraz z władzami municypalnemi.

W ubiegłym roku akademickim Wydział miał 77 słuchaczy, w tym 47 wojskowych, 30 cywilnych. Absolwentów 30. Ilość odbytych godzin wykładów i ćwiczeń dla I roku wyniosła ogółem 640, dla IV, V i Absolwentów wykłady oraz ćwiczenia praktyczne w klinikach zajęły 1114 godzin. Ilość egzaminów złożonych z wynikiem dodatnim dla IV, V roku i dla absolwentów wyraża się w liczbie 90. Pierwszy dyplom lekarski otrzymał por. pilot, który powrócił do swego oddziału jako pilot. Nowy rok akademicki rozpoczęto mając zgórą 100 słuchaczy.

Kończąc swój referat prof. dr. Jurasz stwierdza, iż powstanie Polskiego Wydziału Lekarskiego w Edynburgu jest realnym potwierdzeniem tego, że nauka jest własnością wszystkich narodów, wszystkich społeczeństw w ich dążeniu do tego nowego porządku świata, który będzie oparty nie na interesach poszczególnych jednostek i narodów, lecz całej ludzkości. Jednocześnie, służąc, jako dowód niezniszczalnej wytrwałości i żywotności polskiej nauki, Polski Wydział Lekarski w Edynburgu jest czynnym odcinkiem walki o Wolność Polski i polskiej kultury.

To-day my task is to speak on the Foundation of the Polish Medical Faculty within the University of Edinburgh.

Attacked in September 1939 by an enemy who, by his constant reassurances of peaceful aims, had lulled the watchfulness of the world, the Poles were the first in Europe to take up arms and go forth into an unequal struggle. The formidable war machine of Hitler has broken the possibility of organized armed resistance in Poland. Since our military collapse Hitler has declared his second and no less atrocious war on Polish culture, science and spirit. He announced through General Governor Franck that: "The Polish slave people have no need for education, the elementary school is more than enough. There will never again be a higher institution of learning in Poland, instead there shall be an intellectual desert."

This announcement was the formal pretext for closing all universities and higher schools of every kind; learned societies have been banned; Polish periodicals and books have been forbidden.

To ensure that this time Polish science should not rise again, the greater part of the universities' teaching staffs have been arrested. The example of Cracow has shown us how one hundred and eighty distinguished men of science and professors were deported to a concentration camp in November 1939. Many died as a result of privation, and their deaths have been announced to their families simply by sending them their ashes. The professors of Poznan University have met a similar fate, and during the last few weeks we have heard of the same crime being perpetrated in the case of the professors of Lwow and Warsaw.

The Germans have shown great ingenuity in finding justification for killing prominent members of the Polish scientific world—one of which is, that the community is responsible for the action of the individual member. By adopting this principle they have not hesitated to shoot eminent scientists, although they were completely innocent. An outstanding example is the death of the eminent zoologist, Kopec, known for his studies of insect life.

Very exact reports of what is happening have been received by our former Minister of the Interior—Professor Kot—now our Ambassador in Soviet Russia. In one of his lectures he has revealed how all libraries have been closed, the contents of many have been confiscated, while others have been reopened as German institutions in order to serve the cause of the Germanization of Poland. Everything of special value has been taken from the museums, galleries and collections and sent to Germany. Even cathedral and church treasures have not escaped. It is shameful to have to say that in this criminal plunder of our cultural institutions German professors of distinction, who were formerly our guests at Scientific Congresses, have taken a very active part. It is significant that in some cases these men had with them copies of the receipted bills given to them by the German firms from whom the equipment had been purchased originally. This explains the exact knowledge these Germans had of what there was to be taken away. Names like those of Dr. Augsburg, Professor Mühlmann, Professor Pullhammer, Dr. Richter will never be forgotten in this connexion! This systematic and well-prepared looting, after hostilities had ceased, has brought no smaller losses on the Polish nation than all the aerial and artillery bombardments of Warsaw.

Another sign of the German hatred of Polish culture is the requisitioning by the invaders of all buildings connected with education. The Ministry of Public Instruction is occupied by the Gestapo; Warsaw University now houses the Security Police; the secondary schools are occupied by the Army and it is not without interest to learn that the Jewish Students' Hostel in Cracow has been transformed into a brothel.

People who have been reared under Western rule cannot comprehend the endless vulgar atrocities which are being committed with such mastery and delight in the endeavour to exterminate Polish culture.

In June 1940 the Polish Army was brought over from France to the British Isles. Amongst them were Polish doctors who intended to fight for the common cause, and here I am touching more closely the point connected with the foundation of the Polish Faculty of Medicine in Edinburgh.

When the Poles were stationed in Scotland, Colonel Irvine Fortescue was D.D.M.S. Scottish Command. Finding considerable numbers of Polish doctors, and among them members of Polish Medical Faculties, in the army, he looked around for something that might occupy and refresh their minds. He consulted Lieut.-Colonel Professor F. A. E. Crew, who at that time was commanding the Military Castle Hospital in Edinburgh, and it was arranged that Colonel Fortescue should suggest to the Polish military authorities that batches of twenty Polish medical officers should be attached to the Military Hospital, Edinburgh, for periods of a fortnight, and that Lieut.-Colonel Crew would make further arrangements with the Medical Faculty of the University and with the Managing Board of the Royal Infirmary, whereby they might be spread among the different university medical departments and infirmary clinics.

This suggestion was eagerly accepted by the Polish military authorities, and batch after batch of officers came to renew their interest in professional activities. But it was soon recognized that the linguistic difficulties were robbing these good intentions of much of their potential value.

Lieut.-Colonel Crew, being assured that, among the Polish medical officers then in Scotland, there were many who had held academic positions in Polish Universities and also that among the troops there were many students of medicine whose studies had been interrupted by the war, made the further suggestion that these Polish professors should be allowed to come to Edinburgh and teach their own people in their own language, and that the medical undergraduates should be allowed to come and finish their curriculum and proceed to graduation.

These suggestions finding favour with Lieut.-Colonel Dr. Kurtz, the Director of Medical Services of the Polish Forces in Scotland, Professor Crew thereupon presented them to the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Edinburgh. Lieut.-Colonel Dr. Kurtz, with the support and approval of General Kukiel, G.O.C. Polish Forces in Scotland, sent in a report on the proposition to the Polish General Staff in London, asking the military authorities to permit the medical officers of academic standing to settle in Edinburgh, in order that they might participate in the activities of the different Univer-

sity departments to which they were to be attached, and also to allow those medical students who had finished all their classes in Poland but had not graduated to come to Edinburgh for a period of from three to six months, to be given refresher courses, and thereafter graduate and return to the army as reinforcements for the Medical Service. The Chief Medical Officer of the Polish Army, Lieut.-Colonel Gergovitch, approved this proposition and obtained the consent of General Sikorski, Commander in Chief of the Polish Army in Great Britain. The Polish Minister for the Interior, Professor Kot, enthusiastically took up the idea, recognizing its great value not only from the point of view of the individual and general advantages for the army, and for the future medical service in the depopulated and devastated Poland, but also as forming a closer cultural link between the Polish and British nations.

In October 1940 Professor Kot instructed me to proceed to Edinburgh and get into contact with the University authorities there.

The reception I encountered in Edinburgh surpassed all expectations. Lt.-Colonel Crew proved a wise and friendly adviser of immense value. The Dean of the Medical Faculty, Professor Sidney Smith, placed before his Faculty the suggestion that we should form a medical school of our own: they gave it their unanimous approval and forwarded to the Senatus Academicus for consideration the resolution that a Polish Medical Faculty should straightway be created. The principal, Sir Thomas Holland, gave his powerful support. On October 7 I was able to report to the Polish Minister for the Interior that, in my considered opinion, a Polish Medical Faculty should be formed. The Polish Government in consequence appointed me their representative at the University of Edinburgh with full powers to carry out the whole plan.

The University issued an official invitation to the Polish Prime Minister, General Sikorski, which was readily accepted. The secretary of the University, and the legal adviser to the Polish Government worked out the constitution of the new school. The heads of all departments of the Edinburgh Medical Faculty placed the resources of these departments at the services of their Polish confrères. The Board of Management of the Royal Infirmary agreed to open their lecture theatres and wards to Polish professors, lecturers and students and recently accommodation in some municipal hospitals has, by the courtesy and generosity of the Municipal Authorities, been placed at the disposal of the Polish Medical Faculty.

To design the internal structure of the Polish Medical Faculty, Professor Kot formed, under his direction, an organizing committee which consisted of: Professor Dr. Jerzy Fegler (Physiology), Cracow University; Professor Antoni Jurasz (Surgery), Poznan University; Professor Dr. Włodzimierz Koskowski (Pharmacology), Lwow University; Professor Dr. Leon Lakner (Stomatology), Poznan University; Professor Dr. Tadeusz Rogalski (Anatomy), Cracow University; Professor Dr. Jacob Rostowski (Neurology), Lwow University; and the Chief Medical Officer of the Polish Army, Colonel Gergovitch. This organizing committee, of which I was the convener, next called into being the teaching staff of the new school. The members of it were the six professors already mentioned, seven docents at Polish Universities, and ten eminent specialists.

The names of the seven docents are: Docent Dr. Adam Elektorowicz (Radiology), Warsaw University; Docent Dr. Antoni Fidler (Medicine), Warsaw University; Docent Dr. Marjan Kostowiecki (Histology), Lwow University; Docent Dr. Edmund Mystkowski (Chemistry), Warsaw University; Docent Dr. Henryk Reiss (Dermatology and Venereal Diseases), Cracow University; Docent Dr. Bronislaw Slizynski (Biology), Cracow University; Docent Dr. Wiktor Tomaszewski (Medicine), Poznan University.

The specialists are: Dr. Bernard Czemplik (Physicist), Poznan; Dr. Jerzy Dekanski (Toxicology), Warsaw; Dr. Jaroslaw Iwaszkiewicz (Ear, Nose and Throat), Poznan; Dr. Jan Kochanowski (Radiology), Warsaw; Dr. Zdzislaw Malkiewicz (Pædiatrics), Cracow; Dr. Roman Rejthar (Surgery), Poznan; Dr. Jan Ruskowski (Ophthalmology), Warsaw; Dr. Tadeusz Sokolowski (Traumatology), Warsaw; Dr. Waclaw Stocki (Pathological Histology and Pathology), Poznan; Dr. Czeslaw Uhma (Gynæcology and Obstetrics), Cracow.

The majority of these men had been called to the army service for the duration of the war.

Before the beginning of the academic year all members of the teaching staff had settled in their new environment. They were received in a very friendly and hospitable

manner in the different departments and clinics of the University. The Central Medical Library has been put at their disposal and all necessary arrangements for starting instruction and research work have been completed.

It was on February 24, 1941, that the Agreement was signed between the Polish Government and the University of Edinburgh on the basis of which the Polish School of Medicine was created.

The chief points in the constitution of the Polish Medical School may be summed up as follows:

- (1) The Head of the Polish School of Medicine is the Dean who has the power of a Rector of Polish University.
- (2) The Faculty consists of Polish professors who have held Chairs in Poland, and of professors of the Faculty of Medicine of Edinburgh University representing only such subjects for which Polish docents or Polish lecturers are not available.
- (3) A member of the Faculty is also, according to Polish law, one delegate of the Polish docents.
- (4) The Dean shall be one of the Polish professors elected by the Faculty and approved by the competent Polish Authority after consultation with the University of Edinburgh.
- (5) The curriculum and the standards of teaching and the examination in the school shall be the same as that required in the medical faculties in Polish universities, and as far as possible the Medical Faculty of the University of Edinburgh.
- (6) The programme of teaching is somewhat different from the British programme; according to Polish law, it includes, as subjects of examination, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Neurology, Stomatology and Radiology.
- (7) The examinations are practical, theoretical and oral.
- (8) The Chairman of the Examination Board is the Dean.

According to this constitution the Faculty was established as follows:

THE DEAN

Professor A. T. Jurasz

MEMBERS

<i>Polish</i>	<i>British</i>
Professor Dr. Fegler	Professor W. G. Clark, M.O.H.
Professor Dr. Koskowski	Professor F. A. E. Crew, M.D., D.S.C., D.P.H.
Professor Dr. Lakner	Professor L. S. P. Davidson, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.E.
Professor Dr. Rogalski	Professor A. M. Drennan, M.D., F.R.C.P.E.
Professor Dr. Rostowski	Professor R. W. Johnstone, C.B.E., M.A., M.D.
Dr. Elektorowicz (delegate of the Docents)	Professor Charles M'Neil, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.
Professor Nowakowski, Professor of Hygiene and Public Health at Wilno University, joined the Faculty at the end of the first academic year.	Professor T. J. Mackie, M.D., D.P.H., F.R.S. Professor G. F. Marrian, D.Sc. Professor Sidney Smith, M.D., D.P.H., F.R.C.P.E.

The solemn inauguration of the Polish Medical Faculty took place on March 22, 1941, in the presence of the President of the Republic of Poland, Wladislaw Raczkiewicz, and the Representative of the British Government, the Lord President of the Council, the Right Honorable Sir John Anderson, the Sheriff of the Lothians, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, the Earl of Rosebery and Professor Kot, the Polish Minister for the Interior.

This unique and dignified ceremony has left an indelible impression on the minds of all who participated in it. It was one of the brightest moments of our lives since we left Poland. We felt that a great responsibility had been entrusted to us by our leaders, that we had the confidence of the University Authorities, and not least, that we had the faith of the Polish youth. A more detailed report of the opening of the Polish Medical Faculty in Edinburgh, together with the full text of all the speeches on this historic occasion is given in the *University of Edinburgh Journal*, July 1941, II, No. 2.

Because there was not enough space available in the corresponding departments of Edinburgh we have organized our own departments of Anatomy, Physiology and Histology in the Old Anatomy Department in Bristo Street which had been placed at our disposal. These departments serve only for teaching purposes.

As a complement of the Faculty we have organized a Polish hospital of our own, called the Paderewski Hospital, in a separate building in the grounds of the Western General Hospital. We were able to equip this hospital through magnanimous and generous financial help from America through the "Refugees of England" Anglo-American Committee, and the Paderewski Testimonial Fund incorporated. The Paderewski Hospital serves for the treatment of civilian Poles as well as for military cases and it is staffed by the specialists, professors and docents of the teaching staff of the Medical Faculty. It contains 80 beds with different wards and out-patients' departments for stomatology, ophthalmology, oto-laryngology, gynaecology and obstetrics, paediatrics and medicine. A supplement of 60 surgical beds has been put at our disposal in the wards of the Western General Hospital, with the use of the operating theatres and the X-ray department. The direction of this hospital remains in the hands of the Dean of the Polish Medical Faculty.

A new medical library of our own has been started and already contains 340 volumes. It has been created partly by our own purchases and partly by gifts, as for instance that of 63 excellent manuals by the Associated Graduates of Edinburgh, 62 volumes given by the British Council and 24 through Major Douglas Guthrie, &c.

Just a few days ago the first academical year ended and the second started with hardly a break. Last year the number of students was 77; amongst them were 47 serving in the army who received leave for the purpose of their studies, and 30 civilians. Some 30 had finished all their studies in Poland but had not passed their examinations and it was therefore arranged that they should go through a refresher course. The remainder, including newcomers, were distributed to the first, fourth and fifth year classes.

In bacteriology and legal medicine in which we have no Polish lecturers, Professor Sidney Smith and Professor Mackie of the Edinburgh Medical Faculty have kindly undertaken the instruction and examination of our students.

The first student to receive his diploma from the hands of the Dean of the Polish Medical Faculty in Edinburgh was a pilot in the Air Force who, despite his medical profession, returned to his fighter squadron after receiving his degree.

For the second academic year which has just started we have 120 students on our Roll, of whom five are Czechs.

The teaching and faculty body has been augmented by the arrival of Professor Bruno Nowakowski, Professor of Hygiene and Public Health, of Wilno University.

Our task was not an easy one, particularly as our aim from the very beginning was to keep the same high standard on foreign soil as we have had in the Faculties in Poland. We were determined about this and we are carrying it through. But I would like to say here that our task would have been absolutely impossible if we had not had the full understanding and the great friendship which has been shown to us by the University authorities and by our Scottish colleagues at every turn. We have received every possible support and every possible facility.

The University of Edinburgh has not only given us hospitality, it has given us its heart.

Now, why is it that in Edinburgh we have created the only existing Polish academical school at the present moment in the whole world? Was this mere chance? Perhaps not quite so because the old University of Edinburgh was not unknown to Poles. In his Inaugural Address in March 1941, Professor Kot told how among the Scottish emigrants who, centuries ago, came to live in Poland there was one who founded a scholarship for Protestant ministers in Poland to study at the University of Edinburgh. Owing to this foundation, Polish students made their appearance here in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. As the seat of Common Sense Philosophy the University of Edinburgh attracted the attention of John Sniadecki, mathematician and astronomer, the rector of Cracow University, at the end of the eighteenth century. "Dugald Stewart was Sniadecki's master in the school of thought which he propagated in Poland. Sniadecki sent his younger brother Andrew here, who studied under Andrew Duncan, Alexander Monroe and James Gregory, and on his return to Poland organized a Department of Modern Medical Science at the University of Wilno, basing it on his experience gained in Edinburgh. This Department served as a model for the reform of the medical faculty at the University of Cracow.

It was also from Edinburgh that Andrew Sniadecki brought home the inspiration to prepare the first Polish fundamental manual of organic chemistry.

The many-sided genius of Andrew Duncan also encouraged Sniadecki to many a stroke of initiative in the arrangement of university clinics, in the propagation of the idea of physical education and professional medical publications.

The University of Edinburgh became the centre of attraction for the Poles after the year 1820, when young sons of the Polish aristocratic families arrived to study there. One of them, Konstanty Zamoyski, offered the University a set of books giving information about Poland, her history, art and culture, which has been preserved until to-day in the Advocates' Library. Owing to the encouragement of Professor John Wilson, the protector of those Poles and the most popular figure at the University of that day, one Polish student, Krystyn Lach-Szyrma, published in Edinburgh "Literary and Political Letters on Poland" (1823). The same author on his return to Poland, where he became a professor in the University of Warsaw, published a work in three volumes entitled "England and Scotland—Reminiscences from my Journal", in which he gave a striking picture of Scotland of those days, of her life, her economic and cultural peculiarities, her national character and customs, of her great men—in the first place Sir Walter Scott, and a number of the professors of Edinburgh University.

Such are some of the old cultural links between Scotland and Poland.

Several weeks ago there was a meeting in London of Scientists from allied countries. A *Magna Charta Scientiae* has been published which, in my opinion, is an act of some political importance; it has set out the reasons for which we are fighting in this, the most terrible war the world has ever known. The resolution passed at this meeting states that liberty of thought is the principal condition of human evolution. Men of science have been fighting through the ages against the oppression of free thought and tyranny, and they have suffered in the name of Liberty of Science. Further we read in this declaration that the Liberty of Learning and of Teaching are indispensable for the evolution of science and that digression from this principle would be degrading to human ideals.

Therefore the story of the creation of the Polish Medical Faculty, so dear to us Poles and particularly to us professors and representatives of medicine, surely deserves to find a place not only in the history of Medicine, but in the history of world culture, as one of the fulfilled postulates of this *Magna Charta Scientiae*. The Polish Medical Faculty in Edinburgh is an effective post in the front line of our battle against the destructive power of barbarism which seeks to set up its perverted "culture" on the ruins of Europe.

It is an affirmation that science can be international, that its tendency is towards a real and a better order of the world which must be based, not only on the interest of certain individuals and only a few nations, but on the whole of humanity.

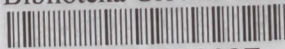
I consider the foundation of the Polish Faculty of Medicine in Edinburgh to be an important and symbolic contribution to that culture for which we are all striving to assure long duration, safety and free development!



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