

## **Kierunki rozwoju krakowskiej szkoły higieny**

### **Evolution of research programmes and trends of Cracow school of hygiene**

#### **SUMMARY**

The Department of Hygiene of Jagiellonian University in Cracow was called to existence in 1893. Prof. O. Bujwid, a bacteriologist, was the first head of the newly established Department, who started regular didactic and research activities. Similarly to other western University Medical Schools, also in Cracow the subject of hygiene was closely associated with the discipline of bacteriology, in the didactics as well as in the research. This characterizes the first period of the Hygiene Department's work in Cracow. That is why the research publications of that time were dominated by bacteriological topics connected mainly with biological contamination of water and food products.

In 1920 the Department of Bacteriology was organized in Cracow, so the two disciplines which were comprised up to now in one unit, were set apart and the reorganized Department of Hygiene started its proper and more specific work of preventive character. The Department of Hygiene covered in its activity all current at that time problems of preventive medicine, but experimental hygiene was the leading course of the research, mostly concerned with microclimatic conditions. This type of work was characteristic for the second period of the Department's activity.

The Department's work was interrupted for four year because of the Second World War, but in 1946 its functioning was reactivated. At the beginning the Department suffered from laboratory outfit shortage, that was why the priority was given to investigations of epidemiological nature, closely related to health problems of the local population. Malnutrition symptoms which were observed among the inhabitants of Southern Poland, were the cause of the emphasis being put on the problem of proper feeding, trying to improve the nutritional status of the population. This research trend, which was strengthened in course of the time, became characteristic in the post-war period in the Department's work. The Department adopted and developed newly proposed methods of nutritional status assessment of the population and introduced suitable anthropometric, medical and biochemical methods.

Since 1991 the name of the Hygiene Department has been converted into the Department of Hygiene and Ecology, and from that time its activity was closely related to the deterioration of living conditions of our region's inhabitants and their decreasing health status.