

Dorobek historii farmacji w polskich realiach lat 1990-1994

The output of polish pharmacy in the Polish circumstances of 1990-1994

SUMMARY

The history of pharmacy was formed in Poland as an academic discipline after 1945. The author describes the achievements of that field during the last 5 years and refers to its earlier institutional forms (sections, museums), while indicating the changes that took place in it; she discusses its research problems and new historiographical trends, as well as the social scientific work which is concentrated in various associations. The study is concluded by a summary entitled "The characteristic features of the history of pharmacy in the years 1950-1994".

Towards the end of 1994 the general structure of this branch of science consisted of two types of institutions: 1) The independent Department of the History of Pharmacy Institute of the History of Science at the Polish Academy of Sciences, and 2) sections of the history of medical sciences at 9 medical academies at which pharmacists are also working. At most of those institutions courses in the history of pharmacy are held (30 hours). There are also museums: in Cracow including 20 000 items, a library consisting of 8 000 books and archives – in Warsaw and a new-founded one (in 1989) in Poznań. Apart from that there are two museums at the pharmaceutical faculties at medical academies in Łódź and Wrocław. One can also regard as a sort of museums ancient chemist's shops and exhibitions (two new ones have been opened in Włocławek and near Chęciny).

The lines of study in the historiography include: the history of pharmacy, biographies, pharmaceutical sciences, natural and synthetic drugs, education, scientific institutions, industry and cooperatives, museums and the craft of pharmacy, military pharmacy, history of pharmacy as an academic discipline, as well as methodology. Recently a new line has appeared in Polish historiography – the history of ethnopharmacy and closely related to it, also new, the history of man's ecology from the point of view of the drug science and phytotherapy. Both lines are represented at the Institute of the History of Science and are published mainly in the series "The History of Natural Drugs", its editor being Barbara Kuźnicka. During the last five years volumes III and IV have appeared. Quite considerable is the number of publications on the period under discussion (in 1995 a bibliography will appear describing the years 1990-1994). Apart from the papers published in journals there appeared also 18 separate items – books and booklets.

There has been an intensive development of social scientific movement in this particular field: mainly in the historical section of the Polish Pharmaceutical Society and in the Polish Society for the History of Medicine and Pharmacy. 7 Symposia in the history of pharmacy have been held. Both home and foreign congresses have been well-attended by our researchers. Progress has also been made in the area of educating new cadres. 6 doctorates have been conferred, and 1 docent's degree. 2 persons became professors.

As regards international cooperation mention must be made of the participation of Polish pharmacy historians in symposia abroad and world congresses, at which also ethnopharmaceutical subjects were dealt with. Three professors are among others members of the supreme world organization (W.W. Głowacki, B. Kuźnicka, W. Roeske): Académie Internationale d'Histoire de la Pharmacie.

The future development of the history of pharmacy in this country depends upon the formation of independent establishments (sections) at all medical academies as these will ensure the formation of new cadres in the field of the history of pharmacy.

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