

Chemia w polskich uczelniach okresu międzywojennego. Chemia fizyczna

Chemistry in Polish schools of higher education between the two war.

Physical chemistry

SUMMARY

Presented in the article is the history of the chairs of physical chemistry in Polish universities and technical universities in the period of 1919-1939. Subsequently papers on physical chemistry published by Polish scientists in this period are reviewed, including also works in which methods of physical chemistry were applied.

The main fields of activity of physical chemistry embraced: microcalorimetry, ebullioscopy and azeotropy, thermal analysis, colloids, kinetics and physical chemistry of surfaces; polarography was initiated in that period.

In 1919 Polish chemists had to build their scientific institutions almost from the very foundations. They succeeded in the development of laboratories that won recognition in world science. World War II dealt a serious blow to Polish physical chemistry, with losses both in human life and scientific achievement. Scientific work was not allowed. Polish scientists had to teach their students in the underground. However, the survivors and the scientific tradition enabled the reconstruction of Polish scientific life, including physical chemistry, and this second start, in 1945, was based on more solid ground than was the case in 1919, thanks to the achievements of the twenty years of independence before World War II.

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