

**Profesor Rudolf Weigl (1883-1957) i jego Instytut**

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SUMMARY

The paper describes the scientific, organizational and humanitarian activities of Professor Rudolf Weigl. Particular attention is paid to his work in Lvov (Lwów) during the German occupation.

Professor Weigl was one of the most prominent biologists and microbiologists not only in Poland but in the world. He developed a vaccine against epidemic typhus, and the technology of large-scale production of this vaccine with the use of lice – natural transmitters of rickettsiae causing typhus. He popularized also campaigns of preventive vaccination on Poland and abroad.

During the German occupation of Poland Professor Weigl employed several hundreds of Poles in the Lvov Typhus Institute, thus saving some of them from forced labour in Germany. He helped people from ghettos in Warsaw and Lvov, as well as from the underground army, by providing them with large amounts of his vaccine. This way he vindicated his patriotism, though he was Pole by choice, not by birth. In the Polish People's Republic the outstanding personality of Rudolf Weigl was not appreciated – he was honoured mostly by institutions from abroad.

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