

THE POLISH REVIEW

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Old Street in Wilno

On the Diplomatic Front

Although the cause of the United Nations is making splendid progress behind the bayonets of the Red Army in eastern Europe, what many will consider a disturbing reminder of the failure of Allied diplomacy to make equivalent progress has just emerged from London. The Polish government-in-exile has issued a statement calling the attention of the powers to the services and sacrifices of Poland in the war, and insisting that no territorial changes occurring during the war be recognized unless brought about with "the free consent and good will of the parties concerned."

The statement is reported to have been a result of a reference by Marshal Stalin, in an order of the day, to Wilno as the capital of Soviet Lithuania: Wilno has, in its varied manifestations, been a fortress, an important railroad center, an ancient capital of Lithuania and, with its surrounding district, has been described as "a Polish island in White Russian territory." Since 1915 it has been in the hands of Russians, Germans, Lithuanians and Poles—with the Poles having the most impressive diplomatic sanction as a result of the action of a conference of ambassadors in 1923. This suggests some of the strategic, economic, historic, ethnographic and diplomatic complexities which surround the ancient city, and which will confront any one seeking a solution of the problem based "on the free consent and good will of the parties concerned."

None of this indicates that there will be speedy or easy progress on the diplomatic front. But it is heartening to observe that the knotty questions involved are not producing the effect which Adolf

Hitler would like to see; they are not hampering the efficient and united prosecution of the war. The Polish statement does not hint at any fundamental change of position on the part of the government which issued it, but neither is the wording of a sort which would impose insuperable barriers to a just and rational settlement or aggravate the present situation. In listing the unquestionable services of Poland to the common cause, the government-in-exile has demonstrated its appreciation of the paramount necessity of eliminating German military power as a factor in the solution of Europe's problems.

On this basis much can be done. Already the area of co-operation among the United Nations, of planning for the future, is rapidly expanding. Doubtless errors are being made, difficulties are arising and will continue to arise. The truism that it is easier to make war than to make a peace is certain to be proved again. But the more significant truth, so far as the present condition of the world is concerned, that it will be impossible to make a good peace unless the war is conclusively won, has triumphed over fears and doubts. The disturbing element of German aggression and German intrigue will not be permitted to influence the organization of Europe and the world, except in so far as it provides a grim lesson and a latent threat. United on this point, the nations arrayed against Hitlerism can reduce their own divisions to a reasonable compass, and armed with the comradeship and mutual respect of the battlefield, turn to the laborious works of a constructive peace.

“ . . . For closer Union, common and mutual brother love, in eternal common defense of both countries, for the eternal glory of God, with eternal thanks to the glory of these two excellent nations, Poland and Lithuania . . . we have renewed that old alliance, and agreed upon the rules hereto set forth: . . . That the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania are now a body one and indivisible, a Republic one and indivisible consisting of two States and Nations, who joined to form one people.”

—Union of Lublin (1569) by which Poland and Lithuania voluntarily united to become one state.

POLISH UNDERGROUND APPEALS TO THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD

On January 8, 1944, representatives of the major political parties of Poland met in secret session in Warsaw to draw up the following appeal to the nations of the world. This was published in the January 15 issue of "Rzeczpospolita Polska," an underground newspaper.

ON the eve of the Allied invasion, on the eve of the decisive encounter with the Germans in which the Polish army abroad as well as the Polish Home Army shall fight shoulder to shoulder with our Western Allies, the world should take into account the situation of the Polish nation, of its four years under German rule, of its great part in this war, of its strength, its hopes and endeavors.

We stood up to fight Hitler's invading forces, knowing full well the price. We do not ask for your sympathy. Rather we assert that whatever the price, it was well worth it. About five million citizens of the Polish Republic have already perished at the hands of the occupation forces. About three million more of our citizens have been deported east or west as political prisoners. Hundreds of thousands of Poles rot in jails and concentration camps so terrible that mortality among them reaches close to 100 per cent. Tens of thousands have been shot or merely murdered in cold blood without formalities in the torture chambers of the Gestapo. Hundreds of villages have been razed, often burned along with their inhabitants. Not a family exists in all Poland that has not mourned some one near and dear.

We paid this bloody price because we remained true to our homeland, because we have kept our treaties and alliances, because our nation did not accept, under any pretext whatsoever, collaboration with the Hun. We have remained Poles, citizens of our Republic, obeying the laws of our Government that, despite its enforced exile, has retained all ties with its people. Here, at home, we have rebuilt, underground, the political structure of a democratic nation: governmental departments and agencies, a secret Home Army, organs for the underground struggle, political parties, a great underground press and a secret cultural and intellectual life. The Council of National Political Representatives, set up several years ago, is composed of representatives of the four main political parties, embraces all social classes and brings together all main trends of political thought existing in Poland.

From the very beginning the hordes of occupation have met at every step with these signs of our free existence and from the first strove to break us through never-ending reigns of terror. But the enemy's blows are answered by our own. Although we were partitioned in 1939, the Polish land is still too hot for the invaders. Not a few thousands of Hitler's satraps have fallen under the blows of the Polish Underground. Not a few trains have been blown sky high. Many S.S. and Gestapo divisions have been liquidated.

The inexorable battle to the death with the Germans shall never end until the Polish land is freed of all invaders. In order truly to rule here, the enemy must first wipe out us

RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA

ROR IV. Nr. 1 (73) WARSZAWA 15 STYCZNIA 1944 R

DO NARODÓW ŚWIATA

W przededniu rozstrzygającego uderzenia sił sojuszników, w przededniu decydujących bitew z Niemcami, w których u boku naszych zachodnich sprzymierzeńców staną do walki także polskie zaprawione i krajowe siły zbrojne — świat powinien zdawać sobie sprawę z sytuacji Narodu Polskiego po czterech latach niemieckiej okupacji, z jego wkładu podczas obecnej wojny, z jego sił, dążeń i nadziei.

Stawiliśmy czoło hitlerowskiemu najazdowi z pełną świadomością ciężkich następstw

i nie o współzuciele nam chodzi, gdy stwierdzamy jaką cenę zapłaćliśmy za umiłowanie wolności. Zginęła już w Polsce podczas tej wojny z rąk okupantów około 5 milionów obywateli Państwa Polskiego. Około 3 miliony obywateli wywieziono na zachód i na zachód jako niewolników. Setki tysięcy Polaków zamknięto w więzieniach i obozach koncentracyjnych, w których większość z nich już zginęła. Dziesiątki tysięcy rozstrzelano lub zamordowano podczas tortur w mordowniach Gestapo. Setki wsi zru-

tu oddzielił Armii Krajowej, która może już jutro skupić wszystkich Polaków w śmiertelnych zapasach z przemocą okupanta.

Stojąc w obliczu tragicznej chwili naszych dzieł, kładąc narodowi naszemu grozi ataki nowych milionów istnień, mamy prawo zwrócić się do Was, Narodów Świata, o stworzenie atmosfery powolności, że ofiary nasze w tej walce nie pójdą na marne, że w nowym powojennym świecie uznane i uszanowane zostaną prawa i interesy Polski, która zajmując kłuzową pozycję między wschodem i zachodem od wieków przeciwstawiała się parciu prusactwa na Wschód i od wieków stawiała w obronie kultury i cywilizacji Zachodu przed falami wschodniego barbarzyństwa.

My, Polacy, patrząc w oczy najzwyklejszym niebezpieczeństwom, mamy prawo domagać się zapewnienia, że nikt Państwo nasze nie zabierze żyjących ziem, że nikt nie będzie miał prawa ingerencji

w nasze życie wewnętrzne, a Rząd nasz, opierający się o zorganizowaną opinię publiczną Kraju, będzie uszanowany w swych prawach.

Zełości i niepodległość Państwa Polskiego będzie dla Świata świadomością niezłomnie od tego, dla nas po tej wojnie zostanie przy życiu.

Pewność uznania przez walczące o wolność i sprawiedliwość narody Świata tych naszych, jak słusznych, zdążeń udzieliłoby nam siły w walce z wrogiem wolności.

Stronictwo Narodowe
Polskie Stronictwo Ludowe
Narodowe Stronictwo Pracy
Centralne Kierownictwo Ruchu Mas Pracujących Wolność, Równość, Niepodległość (WRN)
Stronictwo
KRAJOWA REPREZENTACJA
POLITYCZNA
Warszawa, dn. 8 stycznia 1944 r.

KOMUNIKAT O UTWORZENIU RADY JEDNOŚCI NARODOWEJ

Niniejszym podaję do wiadomości, że zgodnie z decyzją Rządu Rzeczypospolitej utworzona została w Kraju RADA JEDNOŚCI NARODOWEJ, która ma za zadanie

Opening and closing paragraphs of underground appeal "To the Nations of the World," January 8, 1944.

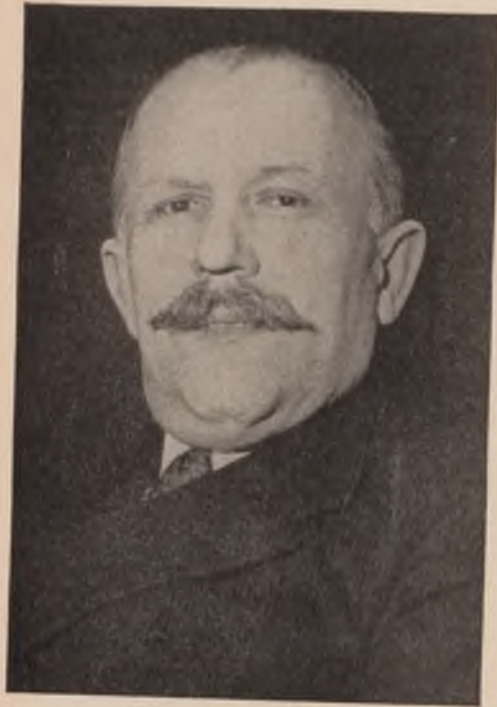
Poles to the last man, woman and child. But to maintain even his present precarious grip on our land, he must use countless divisions sorely needed at the front or for administrative and police work in the Reich.

Nevertheless, the fight is uneven: a nation almost without weapons against a conqueror armed to the teeth. Proof of this lies in our casualties. More than 14 per cent of the population of the Republic of Poland has fallen. This sacrifice is all the greater, because, in their fear-crazed attempts to wipe out resistance, the Germans exterminate the best, the most needed elements of the nation. Scholars, men of the church, artists, educators, technicians, military officers, leaders in every field of work, as well as literally millions of social and political workers, peasants and laborers are the victims of German terror. On top of this, the enemy metes out his "justice" in a way calculated to weaken us for de-

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100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LWOW POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

by JERZY W. MEIER



Kazimierz Bartel, former Prime Minister and Professor at the Lwow Polytechnic, was executed by the Germans in Lwow for refusing to cooperate with them.

LONG before the war, plans to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Lwow Polytechnic Institute were made by the directors of the Institute, now in exile. They undertook the construction of seven large buildings for the Mechanical and Electrotechnical Departments,

lutionary uprising of 1848 that strove to break the despotism of the Holy Alliance.

The Galician massacre in the Cracow region, the Austrian occupation of hitherto free Cracow, the uprising in Poznan, the temporary freedom of Lwow and the revengeful bombardment of the city by General Hammerstein which destroyed the old University of Lwow followed. All this along with later repressions under Austrian rule developed the character of the Poles and the technical progress of their school far more than the program of education dictated by Vienna. Once again progress was disrupted by the Insurrection of 1863, in Russian-held Poland, when youths from Lwow as well as from every part of Poland crossed the border and flocked to join the colors. This time repression was not so severe, as the artificial dual monarchy was already shaken by its disastrous defeat at the hands of the Germans at Sadowa in 1866. To rescue their decaying empire, the Hapsburgs adopted a constitution and granted limited self-government to their subject peoples.

Education was reorganized by the Provincial Sejm in

Lwow. In 1872, the Lwow Technical Academy was changed to the Polytechnical School. A rector and senate were placed in charge of it with the right to hold state examinations and grant state diplomas in engineering. This placed the Institute on a par with the Polytechnic School at Vienna. At the same time, classes were transferred to a new building. At last the school was assured of steady growth and progress. This was the era of the pioneer engineer Stanislaw Szczepanowski and of positivist tendencies in Russian-held Poland. Technology grew in popularity, and the school gained an ever-increasing number of students. The failure of the insurrections and the proverbial poverty of bureaucratically governed Galicia further stimulated the desire to create on Polish soil technological schools equal to any found in Western Europe. The Lwow Institute thus became not only an institute of technology but also a school of Polish patriotism. Many of its students were among the first to join the ranks of Pilsudski's Legions in 1914, and fought through the World War at his side.

Independent Poland awarded the Lwow Institute the "Polonia Restituta" medal for its achievements in science and the outstanding part played by the school in the fight for independence. The city of Lwow gave the Institute the "Cross of the Defense of Lwow."

Following the first war, after regaining the right to rule itself, the enrollment of the Lwow Polytechnical Institute rose to more than 3,000 students, from the pre-war total of 360. Buildings, class rooms, and dormitories were inadequate. The Institute, however, was fortunate in obtaining the buildings of the Magdalena Convent.

In 1937, construction of new buildings for the Department of Mechanical Engineering began on land donated by the city of Lwow. Seven buildings were to have been erected for the new departments of theoretic and practical engineering, metallurgical technology and the use of scrap materials, industrial and metallurgical laboratories, etc. The first two of these projected buildings were in process of completion and their equipment was ready for installation at the outbreak of the war.

The organization and program of the Polytechnic Institute underwent many changes after the rebirth of Poland. In 1919, two other independent educational institutions, the Agricultural Academy in Dublany and the Forestry Academy in Lwow were absorbed and made into the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. To the older



Lwow Polytechnic Institute.

along with new dormitories for aviation students and testing laboratories for the civil engineering students. All these workshops of the school were used during the development of the Central Industrial Area of Poland.

A special anniversary book was to have been published which would have given a brief review of past achievements and a detailed report of Polish technical work and the contribution of Polish thought to the development of technical study. A series of monographs was to have been published on the work of alumni of the Lwow Polytechnic Institute and of the general Congress of Polish Engineers. This work was disrupted by Germany's aggression and the ensuing occupation. Polish professors—those who still live—are in German concentration camps, young Polish engineers and students are either in the Allied armies, have joined the Home Army, or are prisoners of war.

The beginnings of this Institute reach back to 1825, when Stanislaw Staszic became head of the Polytechnical Council called by the Polish Government to organize a Polytechnic under the direction of Kajetan Garbinski. Staszic opened this school two weeks before his death. The school progressed steadily and its program was enlarged and improved until the Uprising of 1831.

Not until 1844 was another attempt made to establish another such school under the name of "Technical Academy."

Normally, in the life of a nation, a hundred years is no great length of time, but the last century before the rebirth of Poland was a most stormy period during which political and economic events affected the development of the Lwow Technical Academy. Just as the school began to function again, its progress was interrupted by the so-called Spring of the Nations, the revo-



Monument to the students who fell in the defense of Lwow in 1918-1919, in the garden of the Lwow Polytechnic. The garden had been used as a first aid station during the war.



Memorial tablet to "Students of the Lwow Polytechnic who died in the defense of Lwow and their Country in the years 1918-1921."

departments of architecture, civil and marine engineering, mechanical engineering, and chemistry was also added the department of military and general engineering. The entire program was brought up to date and enlarged.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the entire department of mechanical engineering was in the hands of three professors, Franke, Jaksa-Bykowski, and Maryniak. Later they were replaced by Professors Fiedler (Turn to p. 14)

Polish Second Corps Wins Its First "Virtuti Militari" In Italy

by WITOLD DOMANSKI

COURAGEOUS and foresighted officers, brave soldiers, and a careful, detailed plan conscientiously executed brought Polish soldiers in Italy their first "Virtuti Militari"* as well as 10 Crosses of Valor.

On a bright Sunday in the square of a small Italian mountainside village, there was not long ago a big military celebration. Trumpets sounded the march of the Carpathian Brigade. A standard embroidered with the words Tobruk and Gazala proudly waved over the rows of olive green helmets. Italian urchins peeked from behind houses to witness the ceremony.

In front of the guard of honor, stood 11 of the Corps' finest soldiers at their head a young lieutenant with dark eyes and strong features set in a swarthy face who stood still as a bronze statue. Had the ceremony taken place in Poland, these heroes would have been showered with flowers by happy throngs. However, General Anders himself pinned the decorations on the breasts of these men who had trapped an entire German outpost.

Two of these seasoned warriors were veterans of the Carpathian Brigade. Two had already twice received the Cross of Valor. Most of them came from families that had long fought and died for Polish Independence. Private Stanislaw N., tall, slender with a strong broad face that revealed his gypsy origin, had had many ups and downs during his short life. During the siege of Warsaw he had been wounded, taken prisoner, but after four months had escaped, crossing the river Bug into Russia. From there he went to the Middle East where he joined the Carpathian Brigade. He had the muscles of a wild cat and when he smiled two rows of white teeth lit up his sun-burned face.

Private Stanislaw W., the leading figure in this story, was also tall and slender with a face somewhat ascetic and a little fanatical. His company called him "platoon leader." A month earlier he had been stripped of rank. He lost rank when he thoughtlessly let a drunken soldier drive a military car. But the army not only punishes but also rewards the meritorious.

* The "Virtuti Militari," or Cross of Military Valor, is Poland's highest military award for bravery on the field of battle. The order was founded in 1792, during the reign of Poland's last king, Stanislaw August.



General Wladyslaw Anders decorates Polish troops in Italy.

General Anders called Private W. to step out of rank. Two quick steps and the clatter of his carbine being shifted and Private W. stood before his general.

"Private W., I advance you to the rank of private first class," said General Anders as he pinned the Corps' first "Virtuti Militari" on his breast. He won it one April night on the Sangro River front.

It happened like this.

"Lieutenant O.," said the battalion commander, "in today's action you are to lead patrol No. 16."

The lieutenant and his patrol of 20 crossed no man's land, wading through deep snow drifts. They all wore white winter camouflage. An artillery officer and 3 artillerymen, a first aid corpsman and two sharpshooters went along. The patrol was equipped with carbines, three Bren guns, 10 Thompson sub-machine guns and two radios.

The patrol was typical of the kind of warfare carried on for three months by the Carpathian Brigade in the Apen-

nines. There in those snow-covered mountains, the daring and decisions of small groups were more important than tanks or heavy artillery.

After an all-night march, wading through snow drifts most of the way, they came upon the Germans' first line of defense near Hill 1463. The latter proved an excellent point of observation. From the summit one could see deep into enemy-held territory. Taking care not to be seen, the Polish patrol gained the top. From there they saw a small farmhouse about 1/4 miles to the west. Four German soldiers were sunning themselves before the hut. Dirty and dressed in ragged clothing, they were slapping fleas.

Although the lieutenant had been assigned only to observe enemy positions, he decided that this new situation automatically changed his orders. The little house was secluded. The nearest German positions were at least a kilometer or two away. This was an isolated enemy outpost. During the day these soldiers remained hidden near the house while at night they brought out their machine guns to cover approaches to German lines.

"As I formulated my plans of action, I realized that I had to take full responsibility for whatever happened," related Lieutenant O. "I thought it all over again and decided that they were ripe for an attack. Our painstaking and tiresome observation went on until evening. Around noon two more Germans joined the outpost. The enemy was not at all aware of its danger.

"We worked out a detailed plan. The artillery attack was to begin at 8 o'clock sharp. Simultaneously two groups, one of Lieutenant O., and the other led by Private W. were to strike and take the house in a "pincers movement." The lieutenant's group was to strike directly at the building from Hill 1463. The other group, under cover of our artillery fire was to move down the mountain side. As soon as the hut was taken, our artillery was to increase its range of fire by 200 meters, in this way cutting off any possible escape routes for the Germans.

"Our details were ready by 7 p.m. The artillery waited only for the signal to open fire. Everyone's nerves were tense. The hands of our watches dragged on at a snail's pace. Finally they said 8 o'clock.

"Our plans worked without a single hitch. On the dot at 8 o'clock the artillery barrage began. Although we had never shot from that position before, our fire was surprisingly accurate, our first shells going only some 50 meters over the mark. Lieutenant Z. remained at the summit of Hill 1463 to direct fire. After the first shots the range was corrected and Polish shells struck the little house. At the same time our two groups pushed down the mountainside. The grade was steep and wet.



Polish troops guard German prisoners taken by them in Italy.

"The Germans replied with blasts from their machine-guns, but were soon silenced by our snipers. Our two groups stormed the house and took up firing positions. Our artillery increased its range by 200 meters. The enemy still tried to shoot from gun embrasures in the north and south walls of the building. Soon, however, even these positions were "too hot" and they were forced to retreat. P., one of our sharpshooters, ran up to one of these gun holes with a hand grenade, but encountered unexpected opposition in the form of a screen. Not losing his head, however, he placed the grenade on the sill, and took cover further along the wall. He had been 13 when the war broke out in 1939, and only 15 when the Polish Army in exile was formed. He had to lie about his age to get in, but his youth did not keep him from winning the Cross of Valor for this action.

"The force of the explosion ripped out the window and part of the adjoining wall. Three more grenades were thrown in and heard to explode. Cries followed, then silence. At the same time, Sniper W. and three others threw grenades through the other windows. Detonations in the hut were again followed by complete silence. Private W. called in

German for any one still alive to come out and surrender. No answer.

"The firing continued. Privates Czeslaw P. and Jozef S. broke in the north door. The lieutenant threw in two more grenades. The interior was still shrouded in smoke when two men, tommy guns in hand went in. Others broke in through an opposite door. The remaining Germans surrendered without any further resistance. Hands clasped behind their heads they were marched out. In this way they could not hide any grenades.

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Polish heroes buried at Monte Cairo (Piedimonte).



Removing the wounded from the Cassino battlefield.

WILNO — THE "POLISH ATHENS"

by WITOLMORESZKO



King Stefan Batory, who founded Wilno University in 1579. Detail of "Batory at Pskow" by Jan Matejko.

"WILNO is one of the most important centers of Polish culture, filled with precious memories, dear to every Polish heart. With it is associated the memory of Adam Mickiewicz, Juliusz Slowacki, Joachim Lelewel, Jozef Ignacy Kraszewski, and many others, including Jozef Pilsudski. It is a beacon of Western civilization lighted on the outskirts of Eastern Europe."

In these words Leon Wasilewski

ended his famous article on the Polish character of Wilno, which was published in "Le Monde Slave." The writer-author was an outstanding publicist and statesman, a member of the Polish Delegation to the Peace Conference of Poland and the U.S.S.R. held at Riga in 1921. He was the father of Wanda Wasilewska, now a Communist writer.

Leon Wasilewski knew Wilno well. He knew the town and the soul of the town, enthralled in its ancient University walls, in the stone towers of its forty churches; Wilno, with its dark monastery-like library halls, its dim side-streets, its slow-flowing Wilja, by whose blue waters Polish romantic poets sat and dreamed. He knew the traditions of the town, where the Miraculous Virgin of Ostra Brama had become the object of special reverence of all Christian Poland; a town which had earned through the centuries the honored name of the "Polish Athens."

That name perhaps most correctly describes the role of Wilno in the history of Polish culture. No other Polish city—with the exception of Cracow—was so organically bound up with its university. Its people left Wilno only to spread its fame throughout the world and to return always in memory to the quiet town and its narrow Florentine streets.

The University of Wilno had its beginning in the XVIth century. In 1579 Stefan Batory, King of Poland, bestowed upon the Jesuit College there the privileges of an Academy, which were confirmed by Pope Gregory XIII. The Academy at first consisted only of three

faculties: philosophy, canon law and theology. Its first rector was the famous orator and writer Piotr Skarga, and its professorial body included the first translator of the Bible, Jakob Wujek, and Mateusz Sarbiewski, author of excellent poems in the Latin tongue. The Academy continued its development up to the middle of the XVIIth century acquiring a faculty of law founded by Kazimierz Leon Sapieha.

The invasion of the Russians, who occupied Wilno for 6 years, halted the activities of the Academy. But it was reopened and reorganized in 1773-1781 by an Educa-



Church in Wilno.

tional Commission and faculties of medicine and architecture were added. Its name was changed at that time and it became the "Principal School of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania." Besides its university duties it was to be in charge of the administration of all other schools in the district. During this period it produced such eminent scholars as the astronomer Poczobut, the architect Gucewicz, Pilchowski, Malewski, Gilibert, Hussarzewski, Strojnowski and many others.

With the last partition of Poland, the school lost its autonomy and its name was changed to the "Principal Wilno School." The University did not give up, however, but continued its work. Scholars of European fame, such as the eminent chemist Jędrzej Sniadecki, the naturalist Stanislaw Jundzillo and the painter Franciszek Smuglewicz lent luster to the University's faculty.

In 1803 the school was finally given the title "Imperial University of Wilno." It now comprised four faculties: physico-mathematical sciences, med-

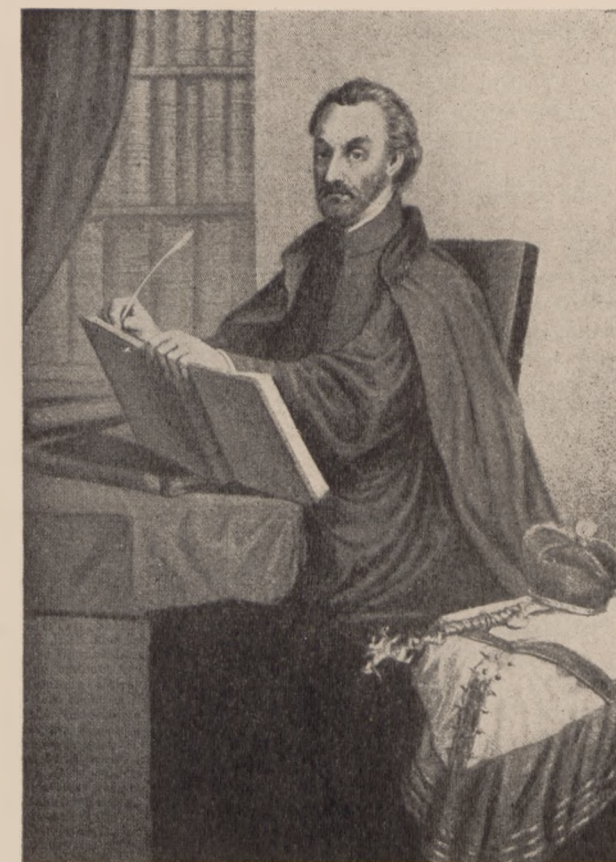
icine, moral and political sciences, and literature and liberal arts. Moreover, the schools of the Wilno district in the provinces of Wilno, Grodno, Witebsk, Mohylew, Minsk, Volhynia, Kiev and Podole were placed under the direction of the university and Prince Adam Czartoryski as curator. Historians of that time wrote that the "Rectorship was in fact a kind of ministry."

The collaboration of Prince Czartoryski, inspector of schools Tadeusz Czacki and rector Jan Sniadecki, gave highly positive results in spite of pressure on the part of the Russian administration. The well-known persecutor of the Poles

Novosiltsov was particularly distinguished for his methods of terror. But in this period the University of Wilno continued to produce great men—Danilewicz, Frank, Nizzkowski, Goluchowski, Herberski and the historian Joachim Lelewel, of whom Professor Janowski wrote "this famous Wilno professor became the founder of a new historical school; he placed the study of history on a level never before achieved..."

Under the direction of such exceptional professors the young people received their education. They likewise established academic circles. In the years 1805-1808 the friends of science society "Philomats" was founded and reached the height of its activity in 1817 under the influence of Tomasz Zan and Adam Mickiewicz, later to become the greatest poet in Polish history. There was also a secret independence club called "Philarets." The Czar's commissioner, Novosiltsov, broke up these academic societies, their members were arrested and in the year 1824 many of them with Mickiewicz, Zan, Czeczot and Odyniec at the head were exiled into the interior of Russia. After the uprising of 1831 the University was closed to be reopened only on August 28, 1919, after the return of Wilno to Poland.

There now began a second splendid period in the history of



Piotr Skarga Paweski, famous Jesuit preacher and first rector of Wilno University (1579).

the University. There were six faculties: theology, literature, the exact sciences, law and social science, medicine and fine arts. The University library numbered more than 350,000 volumes and 12,582 manuscripts, and was open to everyone. The hopes of Lelewel, who lay buried nearby, had been realized. Wilno again became one of the principal centers of the spiritual life of the country, conscious of her great role as the "Polish Athens."

But there was more than the famous Wilno University to bring renown to this town whose Polish culture had for centuries radiated throughout the country. Wilno had also a fine tradition of literature and writing, art and Polish music, libraries and the theatre.

The first printed books appeared in Wilno in 1525 but the real development of literature in Wilno occurred during the reign of the Polish King Zygmunt August. Wilno, together with Warsaw and Cracow, became one of the main literary centers, a workshop of pamphlets and religious, political and social papers. In the beginning of the XIXth century it became the cradle of Polish romantic literature. Two of the most eminent representa-

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Wing of Wilno University housing the astronomical observatory founded by the brilliant 18th century Polish scientist Jan Sniadecki.



The great Polish poet, Adam Mickiewicz, in Wilno. Painting by W. Wankowicz (1823).

WILNO—THE "POLISH ATHENS"

(Continued from page 9)

tives of Polish romanticism, Adam Mickiewicz and Juliusz Slowacki began their work in Wilno, at a time when classicism had reached its zenith and the need for fresh influences was painfully felt. In Wilno literary periodicals were published which were distributed all over Poland; e.g. the periodical "Atheneum" edited by the eminent novelist Jan Ignacy Kraszewski. The famous writer Eliza Orzeszkowa also set up a publishing firm in that city and struggled in vain with Russian authorities for its existence.

Wilno's publishing tradition dates from the XVIth century when Leon Mamonicz installed the first printing press in that city. Besides the printing establishments of the very active University Publishing House, the establishments of the entrepreneur Jozef Zawadzki of Poznan were noted for their bold initiative. The latter revolutionized the Wilno publishing business and the town assumed the character of an intellectual center whose influences spread far beyond the boundaries of the federated states of Poland and Lithuania. For example, in the years 1854-1865 the Zawadzki firms published 348 works in the Polish language, 105 in Lithuanian, 107 in Latin, 11 in French and German, 25 in Ukrainian. Besides the Zawadzki enterprise there were a number of other active publishing firms, of which the most famous was the book company "Lux" of Ludwik Chominski. After its return to Poland there were more than 30 graphic establishments in Wilno.

It is not strange that a town so rich in writing talent, imbued with so intellectual an atmosphere, should lead all others in the number and wealth of its libraries.

In addition to the above mentioned University Library (350,000 volumes), Wilno has its National Library, founded by Tadeusz Wroblewski, a Wilno lawyer, with 100,000 volumes, 30,000 "feuilles volantes," 3,160 manuscripts, and an iconographical museum, a famous Masonry collection, and a collection of documents relating to Wilno and environs. It has its library of the Friends of Science (scientific works), its libraries of the Evangelical Synod, of the Catholic Seminary, the Orthodox Seminary, the Medical Society, the Pedagogical Society and many others, including the well-known Tomasz Zan Memorial Library and 1,000 people's libraries and 500 school libraries.

Polish music which, like literature, experienced its highest level of development during the reign of King Stanislaw August, owes its early development to Polish magnates who, following the example of their King, maintained opera troupes and orchestras at their own expense. In the year 1818 there was established in Wilno an Association of the Friends of Music producing operas. The renaissance of

Polish opera and song will always be bound up with the work of one of the greatest of Polish composers, Stanislaw Moniuszko. In 1840 the latter settled in Wilno and presented there the premiere (1848) of his "Halka," which later became the national Polish opera. The Wilno theatre originated as miracle plays organized by the Jesuits there in the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries, in which University students took part. Later it evolved into court plays given by magnates, e.g. Prince Radziwill of Nieswitz and finally in 1785 the "father of the Polish Theater" Wojciech Boguslawski founded in Wilno the first permanent Polish theater. Morawski and Maciej Kazynski continued in this tradition present-

ing in addition to foreign authors a Polish repertoire. From 1845 the Polish repertoire had to be supplemented by plays of the Russian invader. The Russians designated 3,000 roubles yearly for this purpose, but nevertheless in spite of constant pressure, the Moscow repertoire was unpopular and a patriotic public systematically boycotted the compulsory Russian plays. The renaissance of the permanent Polish stage came in 1906 with the founding of a new theater by Mlodziejowska and Poplawski. They played the romantic and neo-romantic poets such as Mickiewicz, Slowacki and Wyspianski, and the well-known painter and producer Ferdinand Ruszczyk came to Wilno.

When independence had been won, Wilno became one of the centers of Polish theatrical life. Artists played in the Teatr Miejski (Municipal Theater), at Pohulanka, in the Lutnia. The famous "Reduta" was set up, the first Polish experimental theater, under the direction of the learned Mieczyslaw Limanowski and the actor Juljusz Osterwa. In every respect the city was indeed coming to be the "Polish Athens."

But it is not only the Polish Athens. Its greatness may be measured on another scale. Wilno "united two brother nations in one fatherland." Over its stone streets for centuries

Lithuanians and Poles had walked together, before the altars of its churches representatives of both nations had knelt in common prayer, without disputes or quarrels, joined in brotherly love and mutual anxiety for the boundaries of their united kingdom. The greatest Polish poet, Mickiewicz, begins his epic poem "Pan Tadeusz" with the invocation:

"Lithuania, my country, thou art like health itself!"

It may be that the vision of a poet is no argument for politicians. But the fact that on Lithuanian soil two of the greatest leaders of Poland were born, her chiefs of the nation, Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Jozef Pilsudski speaks for itself.

For there were times when the Polish Athens became the Polish Thermopylae and a poet's vision clothed perforce the defenders of a common cause and a common fatherland in armor of steel.



The first Polish edition of the Bible to appear anywhere came from the presses of the Radziwill printery in 1563. Collection of Wilno University Library.

"I BELIEVE" . . . A TESTAMENT OF FAITH

The German occupation of Poland since 1939 has been so cruel and inhuman that one wonders how the people of that martyred land can bear their burden. Polish morale has remained remarkably high despite a five-year reign of terror. But occasionally the heartache is so great that doubts as to ultimate victory are bound to beset even the strongest. In 1943 "Zywia," the underground weekly for women, published this moving scene between two Polish women. The testament of faith spoken by its author sheds some light on the reasons for German failure to break the Polish nation.

AS far as Zoska is concerned, the war has been going on much too long. Just a few months ago, when she had been notified of the death of her only brother in the Oswiecim concentration camp, she had not shed a tear. Surely his sacrifice is not in vain, she said. But her nerves can no longer take it. She wanders about her home quiet and resigned without a smile for her children or a song on her lips. She has stopped making plans for the future, when "her man" will return.

Zoska no longer reads. She has lost interest in the underground press, although she used to be the most avid reader of the secret newspapers that came to the village. I decided it was high time for me to call on Zoska.

We talked about this and that. I asked about her children and inquired about her mother, who was staying at her sister's in another village.

But somehow our conversation lagged. Finally I took a deep breath and asked point blank: "Listen, Zoska, what is the matter with you? Why are you so listless? In these days when we must feel with our heart, think with every cell of our brain, when we must offer help, advice, encouragement—you retreat into your shell as if the world and its affairs did not matter to you!"

At first Zoska tried to avoid the issue. Why, she hadn't changed at all. It was all my imagination. But she couldn't keep up the comedy. Suddenly she grew silent and a moment later exploded:

"Because I don't believe in anything any more, understand? Human laws, eternal justice, human goodness—everything fails! Evil rules the world. *Evil*, see? We are alone, in all our deepest misery we are alone. Alone—do you know what that means?"

"Zoska! Zoska!" I repeated, stunned by her outburst. But she didn't hear me.

"And we are all of us alone! For almost four years we've been dying in concentration camps, they are killing us on the thresholds of our cottages, hanging us on the gallows, our

children are sold in the market place like cattle—and does anyone put in a good word for us?"

"We are alone in this country, suffering the worst things that have ever happened to human beings! That's why I don't want to see people! I don't want newspapers! I don't want to know or hear! My children will never see their father again. I know there are thousands of such children! Why delude ourselves any more? It is better to lock oneself up in one's home and not know anything, not hear anything! . . ."

She sat there trembling, pale and tearful, nervously sewing on a child's shirt. We sat in silence for a long time before I began to speak slowly and carefully, trying not to hurt her.

"Who says human beings are not alone all their life? Think how deep is the solitude of the dying, always, not only

in wartime; and how terribly alone in her pain is a mother giving birth to a new life . . . It is not a question of being alone but of keeping your faith—faith which you cannot explain by reason and which you cannot measure by thoughts—faith in the ultimate victory of Good, which is as eternal as evil is powerful today.

"And no one can help in this, neither friend, nor society, nor the government. He who has lost faith that he can withstand all evil, who does not believe, that despite everything he can still achieve something in life, is as empty and toneless as a bell with its heart torn out. You are not like that! You still have much to say in life, much to give. None of us the living knows how much, how horribly much he can stand. Just as none of us can decide that he has finished his work in the world.

"The same thing applies to our Nation. It is not true that we are alone! It's not true! Never were

there such large human groups defying death day after day in the most difficult labor of conspiracy. They are stronger than death because they do not fear it! They believe, they know that they serve a cause that will outlive death!

"Loneliness and personal grief are forgotten in serving Poland. You know that, don't you? And don't think the world has forgotten us! It is only our improvident, inveterate optimism that impels us to say the war will end today, tomorrow or the next day. A vain hope that has no basis in reality. Poland has never been in such a difficult position as she is today. But never in her past did she have such a great chance of victory.

"Our whole land lives, its pulse beats so strongly that the world stands amazed by our endurance. Our soldiers, encamped at the ends of the earth, eat up every bit of news about us, and study it for a hint about you, me, their mother,

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Medical Welfare Activities Of TOZ Among Jews In Poland 1919 - 1939

by LEON WULMAN, M.D.

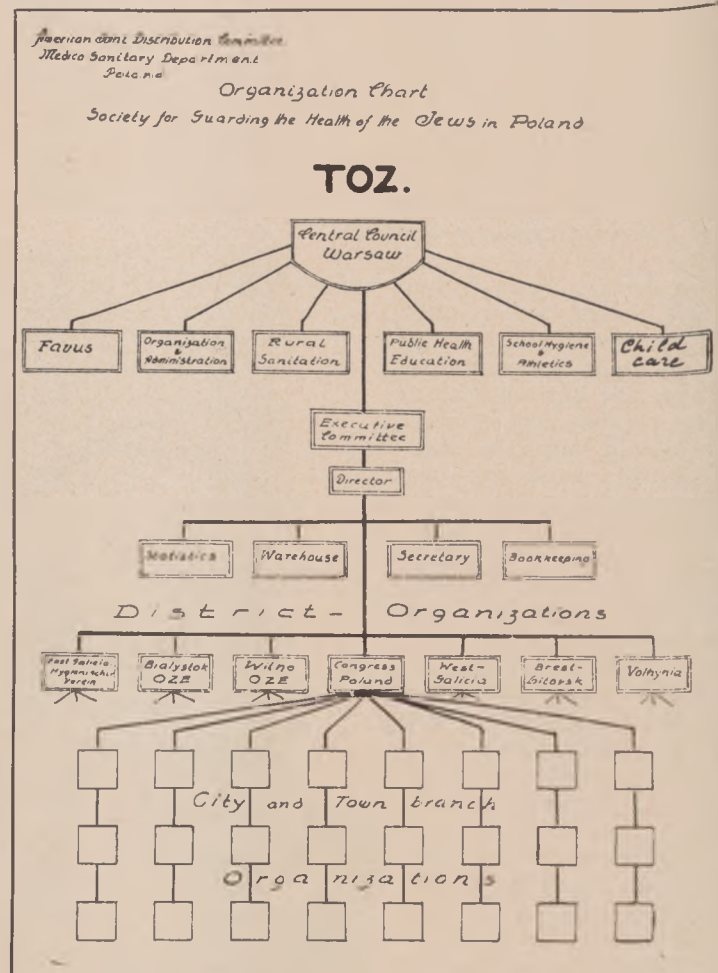
The outbreak of war in September, 1939, brought to a violent end normal Jewish community life in Poland, which had been built up with care and at great sacrifice.

Great interest attaches to the medical welfare work carried on in Poland by the Jews between the two wars, and it is of value as a guide for future relief work in Poland after peace returns.

No one is better qualified than Dr. Leon Wulman to describe the work and achievements of T.O.Z. in Poland for the readers of THE POLISH REVIEW. Dr. Wulman was the founder and the head of the T.O.Z. in Poland. Prior to this he had been deputy director of the medical department of the American "Joint" in Poland. The author of several books and numerous articles on public hygiene, from 1928 to 1939 edited "Social Medicine," a Polish scientific magazine devoted to health problems among the Jews.

Now in the United States, Dr. Wulman is Director of the American OSE Committee for safeguarding the health of the Jews and edits the "OSE Review."

The following article is based on his recent lectures to students of the J.D.C. Introductory Courses at Columbia University:



61 day camps; 1 nurses' schools; 1 orthopedic institute, etc., etc. This work was carried on with the support of the 15,433 TOZ Members.

Factors that contributed to the progress of TOZ's medical work were many: first, the participation of prominent physicians and public leaders, close to the Jewish scene, familiar with the living conditions of the Jewish masses, who knew their psychology and enjoyed their confidence. Another factor contributing to the success of the organization was the wide social base on which it was built. There were people from all walks of life and no distinctions were drawn as regards professions, education or party affiliations. This broad basis of people from all groups and classes gave the organization strength and influence. A third and vital factor was the handsome financial support of American Jewry through the Joint Distribution Committee, the assistance of the World Union for health protection among Jews—OSE—and the friendly attitude of the Polish government and communal authorities toward TOZ, whose work they appreciated highly.

The work of TOZ comprised: 1) Dissemination of public information; 2) Medical care of children; 3) Combating and eradication of social diseases; 4) General medical aid; 5) Scientific research.

1. To arouse among the masses a realization

of the need for cleanliness and proper care of the body, this slogan was used from one end of the country to the other:

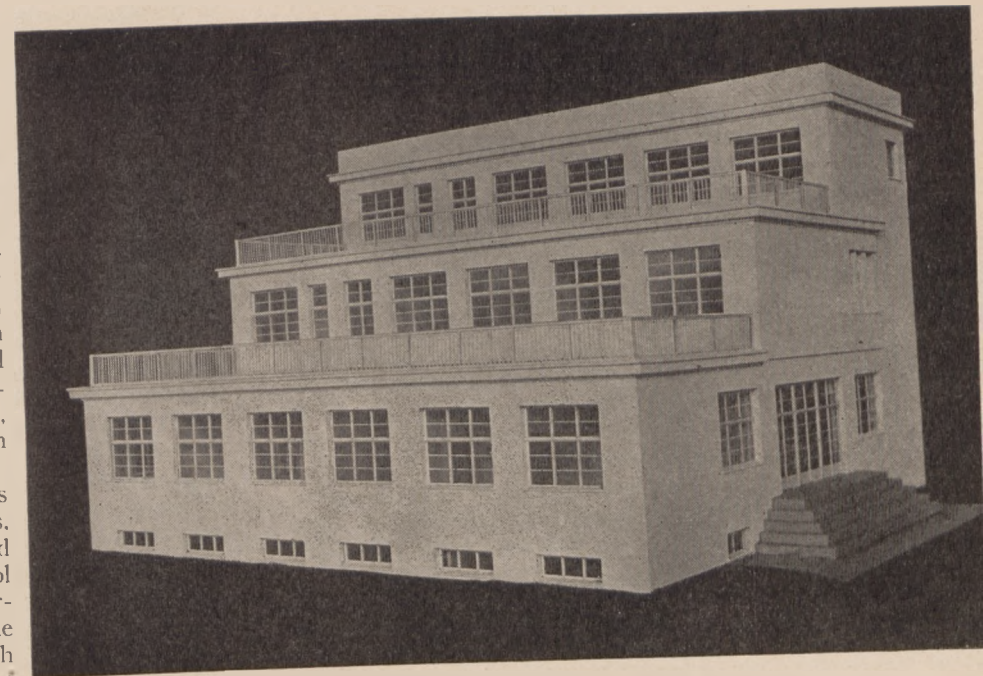
"The cure of the sick is a charitable deed—*mitzweh*—but the prevention of sickness stands higher."

The means employed to drive home this truth were many. Lectures were held, movies shown, brochures, posters, pamphlets distributed by the million. Visiting nurses from sanitation squads and health centers instructed the families in health protection, "cleanliness week" were held and clean clothes, linen and soap were distributed. The press, popular publications, and magazines lent valuable assistance in this educational campaign.

2. The medical care of children was divided into three parts: for infants, through dispensaries, milk depots and child clinics; for children of pre-school age—through nurseries and kindergartens; for school children through the teaching of hygiene in schools, health colonies and children's clinics. Tens of thousands of children were served in these institutions and in the schools. TOZ operated in schools of all kinds—religious, secular, Hebrew and Yiddish.

General poverty and the needs of the parents hindered the efforts to improve the health of the children. It was necessary to feed the children, and in recent years breakfasts and lunches were distributed to more than 45,000 children daily. The same kind of work was done in the summer colonies which sought to give rest, nourishment and medical aid to the children during the summer months. In the summer of 1939, more than 36,000 children attended the summer colonies of TOZ. Besides these colonies, many other camps existed for needy children.

3. Of social diseases three were most prevalent among the Jewish masses in Poland: tuberculosis, ringworm and trachoma. A two-fold campaign to eradicate these diseases was carried on by TOZ. a) it sought to check the spread by isolation, registration of the sick, hygienic information, dis-



Model of TOZ tuberculosis sanitarium in Bialystok, Poland.

infection of homes and b) it give direct help to the sick by placing them in recognized medical institutions, distributing proper food and finding proper places for the victims to live and work.

The fight against ringworm was originally undertaken by the J.D.C. and later continued by the TOZ which cured 27,760 cases. The following instance well illustrates what was achieved: in 1922 it was found that in the religious schools of Bialystok and Wilno, one out of every six children had ringworm. Entire schools were affected with this disease. In recent years an inspection was made of these same schools and it was found that the disease was virtually non-existent. In the history of medicine there is no parallel to this story of the cure of a disease as widespread as was ringworm in Poland, and that by a private agency without official powers.

4. The extreme poverty of the Jewish people and the inadequate medical aid to Jews compelled TOZ to concern itself also with purely therapeutic services. Medical clinics, hospitals, sanatoria, X-ray cabinets, dental clinics were organized and conducted. The number of such institutions before the war was upward of one hundred and fifty most active institutions. The Central Radiologic Institute in Warsaw, with its complete X-ray equipment and facilities for diagnosis and treatment of ringworm; the Sanatorium for tubercular children in Bialystok, the summer camps and homes for children in Wilno, Lwow and Cracow, the Nurses' School in Wilno and many others deserve mention. Thousands of patients visited these institutions and benefited from their help.

5. TOZ was not satisfied merely to give practical medical aid to the thousands who needed it, but sought out the causes of their physical handicaps, gathering material regarding the health conditions of the Jews in Poland and comparing it with that of the non-Jewish population of similar economic status. Similarly TOZ conducted important research into the mortality rates of Jews and non-Jews, the spread

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Dormitory for children in Warsaw run by TOZ (Organization for the protection of the health of Jews in Poland). When the Germans created the Ghetto in Warsaw, they ruthlessly destroyed the dormitory and sent the children to camps of death where they were murdered.



Nursing school of TOZ in Wilno, Poland.

(Continued from page 5)

and Anczyc. Drafting was first introduced by Professor Edwin Hauswald who was given his chair in 1904 and is now the oldest living Lwow professor.

Most famous among the older professors of architecture were Julian Zacharjewicz and Teodor Talowski, Edward Kovacs who propagated wood decoration, and Antoni Popiel, sculptor and creator of the Mickiewicz monument in Lwow.

Younger members of the staff were Jan Sas Zubrzycki, admirer of Polish gothic and author of about 60 scientific works on Polish architectural relics, Thaddeus Ominski, architect of the Polytechnical library and restorer of Lwow Cathedral, Witold Minkiewicz, Wladyslaw Klimczak, Wladyslaw Derdacki and Kazimierz Bartel, several times prime minister of Poland, killed by the Germans in Lwow after his refusal to become a Quisling.

In the Department of Engineering were Maximilian Thullie, who lectured at the Polytechnic Institute from 1890 to 1939, Jan Bogucki, Kasper Weigel, famous geodetist, killed by the Germans in Warsaw, Stefan Bryla, Wladyslaw Wojtan, famous Polish technical lexicographer, Artur Kuehnel, Karol Watorek, Lucian Grabowski the astronomer, three professors of marine engineering, Maximilian Matakiewicz, Otto Nadolski and Jan Lopuszanski, and two mathematicians, Wladyslaw Stozek, Dr. Lucian Boettcher.

In the Department of Chemistry the leading professors were Ignacy Moscicki, Thaddeus Godlewski, Stefan Niementowski, Pawlewski, Wisniewski, Victor Syniewski, Adolf Joszt, Adam Maurizio, Wacław Lesnianski, Stanislaw Pilat, and Thaddeus Kuczynski.

In the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Stefan Pawlik, Karol Malsburg, Leopold Caro the economist; Benedict Fulinski the zoologist; Dezydery Szymkiewicz the botanist;

Szymon Wierdak, editor of *Sylwana*, all played important roles in the development of the school and the training of students.

In the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Stanislaw Anczyc, great friend of youth and a famous social benefactor, Thaddeus Fiedler, engineer and philosopher, Maximilian Thaddeus Huber, world famous as a mechanical engineer, Edwin Hauswald, popular for the many anecdotes about his inventions, Diesel, famous constructor of machines, Ludwik Eberman, well known teacher, Julian Fabianski, petroleum engineer, Zygmunt Ciechanowski, to mention only a few members of the large staff.

While Poland was partitioned, the Polish Polytechnic Society organized all Polish engineers in Austrian-held Poland and was active in all Polish matters. One of its most famous presidents was Stanislaw Szczepanowski. An equally famous secretary of the organization was Wladyslaw Sikorski, who later became Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief. Secret political and military meetings were commonplace.

Now the Polytechnic Institute has been closed by the Germans, its professors have been ruthlessly murdered. The Germans have replaced it with a German-Ukrainian Technical Institute. They have looted its laboratories and libraries on the pretext that Poles have no need for such things. But Polish sweat and blood in building up the institution cannot be erased so easily. No matter what happens, even if the fortunes of war destroy the Institute completely, Poles will return and build it anew. After the war the Lwow Polytechnic Institute will continue to educate Polish engineers, who will direct post-war reconstruction and help build a new Polish economic system based on equality of opportunity for all classes of society.

"I BELIEVE"—A TESTAMENT OF FAITH

(Continued from page 11)

sister, wife . . . We are not the only ones who wait. They wait too for that moment when they will cut the motors of their planes and glide down over Poland and land here, next to us, perhaps on our community mall beyond the village. Think of it!

"But so that all this might come about, we must enrich our common stock of moral force by a contribution of such ardent faith that all doubts and resignation will fade before it. We must repeat like a daily prayer our indomitable 'I believe.'"

Zoska was staring out of the window.

"In what do I believe?" she asked without looking at me.

"I believe that evil can not last forever! I believe in the victorious return of Polish soldiers to their family home-

steads. I believe in the might of the Polish Spirit, which is strong enough to rise above the most humiliating misery. I believe that the sacrifices of the Polish fighters for Freedom are not in vain. I believe that out of the blood shed on Polish soil for the eternal truths of Good and Justice will dawn the joyous Morrow of a Just Poland. I believe in the purposeful flight of Polish planes winging their way over the oceans of the world, toward their native land. I believe that the crimes of murderers of the defenseless and the weak will be effectively counteracted by the organized will of the nations that serve justice. I believe—I believe in the speedy victory of Poland! . . . And I believe in my resilient strength which I give today and which I will give tomorrow to build lasting Peace and Order in my liberated country."

Zoska continued to stare into the distance. But her pale lips repeated after me: "I believe."

POLISH SECOND CORPS WINS ITS FIRST "VIRTUTI MILITARI"

(Continued from page 7)

"Never in my life did I see people so mortally afraid," Lieutenant O. said. "They held their hands up all the way back to the Sangro. All through our bombardment of the outpost, they had lain on the floor.

"Nevertheless, we barely had time to march the enemy out of the house before another outpost further to the West opened fire on us. Since our assignment was already accomplished, there was no use taking further risks. Private W. and 4 other Polish soldiers took the prisoners back to our base while our lieutenant returned to the observation hut for further reconnaissance.

"On the floor lay a dead German soldier, but before we

could search him, enemy mortars found the range. We couldn't wait any longer. Retreat was imperative. This mortar fire harassed us all the way back to our base. When we were safely back we found every one alive and well."

In recognition of this outstanding deed and for great personal bravery Stanislaw W. was awarded the silver cross of "Virtuti Militari." As General Anders, commander of the Second Corps pinned the decoration on his breast he said:

"The most important trait of a soldier without which he cannot accomplish anything is courage . . . I am sure that during our march toward Poland, all our soldiers shall be decorated for bravery . . . I am equally certain that these men who have proven their might and valor here on the Italian front shall continue to serve Poland well . . ."

POLISH UNDERGROUND APPEALS TO THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD

(Continued from page 3)

ades to come. At every step he ruthlessly applies the principle of collective responsibility. Seeing how impossible it is to break our spirit, he has increased his bestiality to a degree never before attained in the history of the world.

Mass executions have killed about two and a half million Jews in Poland. Present-day conditions have overshadowed even the darkest medieval legends of this unhappy people. This refined sadism of public executions of Poles that has prevailed throughout the country has no historical parallel. From October, 1943, the streets of Warsaw and many other Polish cities resound with the shots of firing squads killing new hostages. On certain days in Warsaw alone as many as 300 persons are executed in the streets and squares. To emphasize their threat, microphones fixed in streets all over the city announce the names of the liquidated, as well as those of the next batch of hostages scheduled for this organized murder. Big red posters plastered on walls also announce this. During the past few weeks in Warsaw, over 1,000 hostages have died in this manner. In the same period, 5,000 more were killed in other parts of the country. Mass executions of prisoners by firing squads or in gas chambers also continue in concentration camps and prisons.

We have no doubt that the Germans want, if not to exterminate the entire Polish nation, at least to weaken it so that we shall never again constitute a threat to them. Recent statements by Himmler reveal plans for continued anti-Polish terror. And should the Germans be forced to evacuate Polish territory, this criminal promises that everything there shall be leveled and the population wiped out, except for forced labor needed in the Reich.

These inhuman crimes, this extermination of the Polish nation goes on before the eyes of the world. They have become part of our every-day life. It is the duty of all nations of the world to understand this and to lend a hand to a nation fighting to the very last drop of blood for its existence. We ask of you, nations of the world, this aid. We want it in the form of increased military action to hasten the day of

liberation and the end of massacre, in the form of cooperation with our Government and army to speed the day of invasion, in the form of fastest possible deliveries of arms and ammunition to our Home Army, that stands ready to face the enemy in the final victorious struggle.

Now, in this most tragic moment of our history, faced with the increased butchering of our population, we have the right to turn to you, nations of the world, for reassurance that our sacrifices in this fight are not in vain, that in the post-war world the rights and interests of Poland shall be unquestionably recognized. Poland, which occupies the key position between east and west, has for ages past blocked the path of Prussian aggression to the East, and for centuries has been an outpost and defender of Western culture and civilization against the Asiatic hordes that periodically swept over Europe.

We Poles, face to face with the most terrible danger, have the right to demand assurances that:

No one shall rob us of any territory,

No one shall have the right to control our internal affairs; that our Government, based on the free will of our people, shall be fully recognized.

The integrity and independence of the Republic of Poland and its decimated population shall be regarded as sacred by the world.

The assurance that the nations now fighting for a free world shall acknowledge these just demands of ours shall increase ten-fold our efforts in the fight with the enemies of freedom.

The Home Political Representation consisting of:

THE NATIONAL PARTY
THE POLISH PEASANT PARTY
THE NATIONAL LABOR PARTY
THE CENTRAL DIRECTORATE OF THE WORKING
MASSES MOVEMENT

"LIBERTY, EQUALITY, INDEPENDENCE."

—Warsaw, January 8, 1944.

MEDICAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES OF TOZ AMONG JEWS IN POLAND

(Continued from page 13)

of tuberculosis among Jews in Poland, the state of health of Jewish school children, the population characteristics of Jews in Warsaw, Lodz and other cities, and the state of health of Jewish intellectuals.

Medical conferences were held and a scientific magazine, *Social Medicine* was issued.

Such were the main lines along which modern public health work was conducted among Jews in Europe between the two wars.

When one considers the many-sided activities of TOZ, the wide scope of the medical and hygiene work it carried on between the two wars, one cannot but marvel at the magnitude of the undertaking and the remarkable results achieved. During those years TOZ worked a tremendous change for the better in the public health conditions of the Jews in Poland. This was reflected in a drop in the mortality rate among Jews (from 15-18 per 1000 inhabitants to 10-12); in the infant mortality rate (from 12 per 100 birth to 6.6); in the control gained over a whole series of contagious diseases (27,000 ringworm cases cured) and in the remarkable improvement in the health of school children.

TOZ transformed medical service from mere charitable relief into a systematic and constructive activity for the improvement of Jewish health conditions; from mere cure of sickness to the prevention of disease, from unorganized activity in different fields to a well-knit, systematic health movement with a many-sided program covering all phases of health protection and all linked together in a large-scale health education program. TOZ broke away from old methods and conducted its work on a modern and scientific basis.

The outbreak of the war put a violent and brutal end to this work. We are witnessing now a horrible process of mass extermination and annihilation of the Jews in Poland by the brutal German invaders, exceeding in atrocity anything recorded in history. Sad and dark is the outlook for the future.

Nevertheless, the day will come when the *dance macabre* of the forces of evil will cease to darken the world and mankind will again be free. In Poland, there will be released tremendous forces that will reach new heights in the work of succoring the suffering Jewish masses, for the greater good of the whole population in Poland.

For Your Freedom and For Ours!

The soldiers of the United Nations are shedding their blood on all the battlefields of the world.

Help save the life of a soldier, sailor or marine by giving a pint of blood to the Red Cross Blood Bank.



Poles, do your duty! Make your appointment now at your nearest American Red Cross Chapter!