

LOWER SILESIA
AND
THE CITY OF WROCLAW



Wrocław 1948

SILESIA INSTITUTE BRANCH IN WROCLAW

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143 473

*On the front cover Piotr Włost (first half of the XIII th c.),
the great patron of art in Silesia and Wielkopolska, with his wife.*

From a Wrocław tombstone. Drawing by Lena Morełowska.

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LOWER SILESIA AND THE CITY OF WROCLAW

LESZEK GOLIŃSKI

The Battle of Wrocław.

On February the 17th 1945 the official bulletin of the Soviet Information Bureau announced: "South and south-west of Wrocław our forces advanced and occupied in combat over 60 villages. The battle aimed at crushing the enemy encircled in Wrocław is continuing." Thus started the battle of Wrocław, one of the fiercest battles fought in the last war. Wrocław was visible from afar shrouded in dense clouds of smoke which enveloped its many spires and hid the broad, blue bend of the Oder. It was a last stronghold of the German defence, but the end of the German Breslau was approachnig.

The Soviet Command thwarted the plans of the Germans: closing with a comparatively small force under general Gruzdowski the bottleneck towards Sobótka, which was the only way of escape left to the encircled enemy, the main Soviet forces moved on towards the West. Wrocław like a lonely, forlorn island was left behind the rolling-on main front-line. This island though hopelessly lost was none the less powerfully armed and fighting fiercely. Its armament factories worked day and night. Tanks were constructed in the present Pafawag (State Railwaycar Factory), the "Archimedes" plant was feverishly producing munitions. The Germans deluded by the High-Command of the Wehrmacht were hoping in vain for succours and were determined against all reason and hope to defend the town. They did not realize that defeat was already hovering over them.

On the beautiful war-cemetery of the Red Army in Krzyki, one of Wrocław's suburbs, stand two tanks with proudly uplifted guns. Each of them, as well as each of the

many tombs surrounding them has a heroic story to tell, a story of unprecedented courage and sacrifice. On one of these tanks, under the fresh coating of green paint you may read the number 217. Tank No. 217 was the first Soviet tank which broke into the besieged town and engaged in combat a whole company on the spot where now the broadcasting station is standing. A direct hit immobilised the vehicle but its crew fought on under cover of some ruins until rescue came. Under a heavy fire of machine-guns the crew repaired the tank and moved victoriously on. On the 27th March, on the Gojawicka Street tank No. 217 got a deadly hit and its gunman sergeant Nichajew died, but the first breach into the town was made. Fighting became fiercer then, each house, each street cost hundreds of lives. Germans fought from garrets and basements and each house-block, each threshold was mined. Street-fighting reached in Wroclaw an unprecedented fierceness. The German High-Command was resolved to hold Wroclaw at any cost and the commanding officer of Wroclaws garrison was changed thrice. Thousands of P. O. W.'s had to build under compulsion of automatic guns an aerodrome in the heart of the city, destroying for that purpose a whole of its quarters. In April a plane landed on the enormous aerodrome, which now is the Grunwaldzki Square, bringing von Nigof, a general of infantry, the last of Wroclaws commanders.

Special commands were ordered to blow up one house after another in the retreat before the steady push of the Soviets, who were advancing regardless of losses. Wroclaw was dying. Von Nigof in a basement of a house in the Muzealna street devised feverishly phantastic plans of Wroclaws wholesale destruction. April was over and May came in all its glory of fresh leaves and sunshine, but in Wroclaw, that dreadful, hot, smoking and stony desert, in that hell of destruction and death nobody heeded it. The last contact with Berlin was broken — Berlin capitulated. On May the 6th, at 4.30 p. m. an uncanny stillness fell upon the town. The barking of machine guns ceased, gun fire stopped, the clanking caterpillars of the tanks came to a standstill. The stillness was so intense, so depressing after the hell of the last 100 days that the German population hidden in basements and among ruins did not dare to

speak aloud. Through a broad, stony canyon which was once the principal thoroughfare of the residential quarter of the town (the Powstańców Śląskich Street at present) three Soviet officers of high rank were marching. At the corner of the Lubuska Street they were joined by a German officer. General von Nigof awaited them nervously in the basement of No. 6, Kamienna Street. Wrocław surrendered. It surrendered a few days after Berlins capitulation. It surrendered utterly destroyed by a thoughtless and stubborn German resistance, burned-out and looted by its yester-days masters. It surrendered as the last major point of resistance in Germany.

At the very same moment German broadcasting stations were crying: stop fire, and Polish troops side by side with the Red Army were marching on the Unter den Linden. The white-and-red banner was flying over the Berlin Tiergarten.

Thus we saw Wrocław for the first time. At night it greeted us with a blaze of fires, at day-time with an enormous expanse of ruins and utter destruction. The Germans greeted us in the streets with cowardly, ingratiating and false smiles and we bowed before the many fresh tombs of nameless heroes — peasants from the Volga and the Don, men of Stalingrad fame, who died here to return Wrocław to Poland. We looked awed at the wrecks of smashed tanks which were to become monuments of to-morrow.

Nowadays, walking in the streets of a busy, big Polish town we are apt to forget them in the bustle of our petty daily affairs. Thus works the immutable Law of Life, but the truth about the Polish Wrocław remains unchanged: They died that the white and red banner may flow from Wrocław's town-hall.

Mortui sunt, ut liberi vivamus!

RUDOLF JAMKA, Ph. D.
Professor at the Wroclaw University

The Prehistory of Silesia.

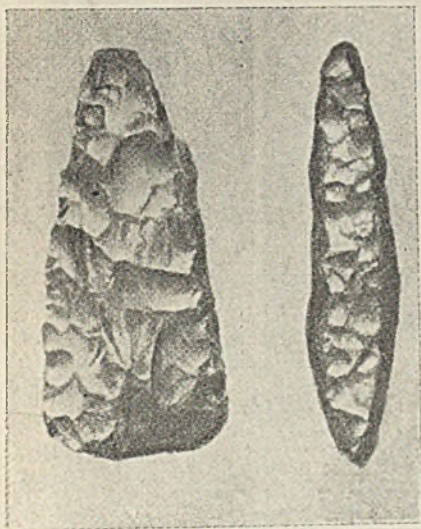
Owing to its geographical position the ethnic composition of Silesia developed along the same lines as that of the neighbouring territories of Poland. Silesia was always separated from Bohemia and Moravia by the mountain range of the Sudely while its main artery, the river Oder, united it with Polish territories.

Traces of Silesias oldest inhabitants date as far back as the ice-age, the last of geological epochs, during which Europe has been several times hidden under a mighty cover of glaciers. The time which elapsed since that remote period is estimated at some 200.000 years. Many different populations have passed then over this territory on their way to the adjoining south parts of Poland. These people came mostly from France.

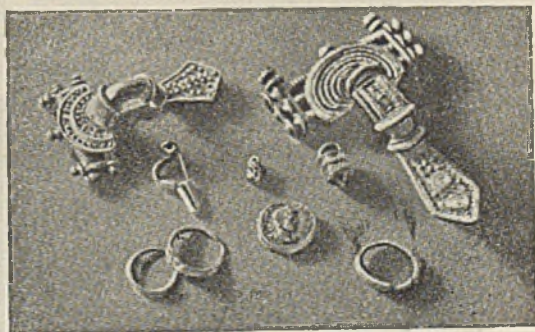
When the dilluvial glaciers withdrew from Central Europe a last wave of nomadic populations appeared in Silesia and in the neighbouring south and central regions of Poland.

About 3.000 years B. C. we find permanent settlers in Silesia and the adjoining Polish territories. Among the numerous tribes which populated for a time these territories the people of the so called „cord-ceramic“-culture are worth mentioning; they are said to belong to Indoeuropeans at the time of the indoeuropean language community.

The Bronze-Age, some 1800 years B. C., brought about the splitting of the indoeuropean peoples into different ethnical groups. Of these the tribe of the Luzyce-culture deserves our attention, being presumably pre-slavic. The area occupied by that tribe coincides roughly with that of the Western Slavs in historical times. The remains of this culture in the form of ash burial sites are found by hundreds in Silesia and elsewhere. Their further cultural and territorial development was brought to a standstill in the beginning of the Iron-Age when neighbouring tribes started to invade the country.



1. Neolithic flint axe-head.



2. Metal ornaments from
about the year 400.



3. Preslavic cremation-burial site. Łużyce (Lausitz)—culture.



4. Face-shaped vessels of Preslavic people of the „stone-kist“-culture

The first of the invaders were a people of near kinship, the people of Pomeranian culture, who came from the part of Pomerania situated on the banks of the Vistula. In the years 600—400 B. C. they occupied Wielkopolska, Masovia as well as parts of Silesia and Małopolska. In the VIth c. B. C. Silesia and the neighbouring parts of Poland were flooded by Scythians coming from the far away Ukraine. Around 400 B. C. Celts came from the south and took possession of small areas of Silesia and Małopolska. The territories occupied by the people of Pomeranian culture were the cradle of new pre-slavic elements: Venedians in the north and Lugians in the south, these names being given them by historians of antiquity. The last of the groups named held Wielkopolska, Masovia and parts of Silesia and Małopolska. We witness a territorial expansion of this group leading to the ousting of Celts from their small areas in Silesia and Małopolska. In the IIIrd c. B. C. the pre-slavic people spread over the Carpathians and all over the Ukraine, this being the starting point of a differentiation of Slavs into western, eastern and southern tribes. Silesia found itself along with the rest of Poland in the group of western-slavic languages.

Archeological research brought proof of high cultural level of the inhabitants of Poland in that remote past. We are able to refute the German claim that towns in Poland were founded only by German colonists. The town of Opole proves convincingly the contrary. A fortified town was discovered there with fortifications built according to an age-old plan and inhabited by a population already differentiated into several professional groups. Opole was founded before the German colonists came to Poland.

Silesias past was formed since the time of the first appearance of Man upon it up to historical times in quite an analogous way to the rest of Polish territories. This is due to a geographical bond, a bond which has been artificially severed in the XIVth c. The separation of Silesia from Poland had only a political meaning — ethnically Silesia, particularly Upper-Silesia, remained Polish up to the end of the last war.

KAZIMIERZ POPIOLEK, Ph. D.
Vice-Director of the Silesian Institute

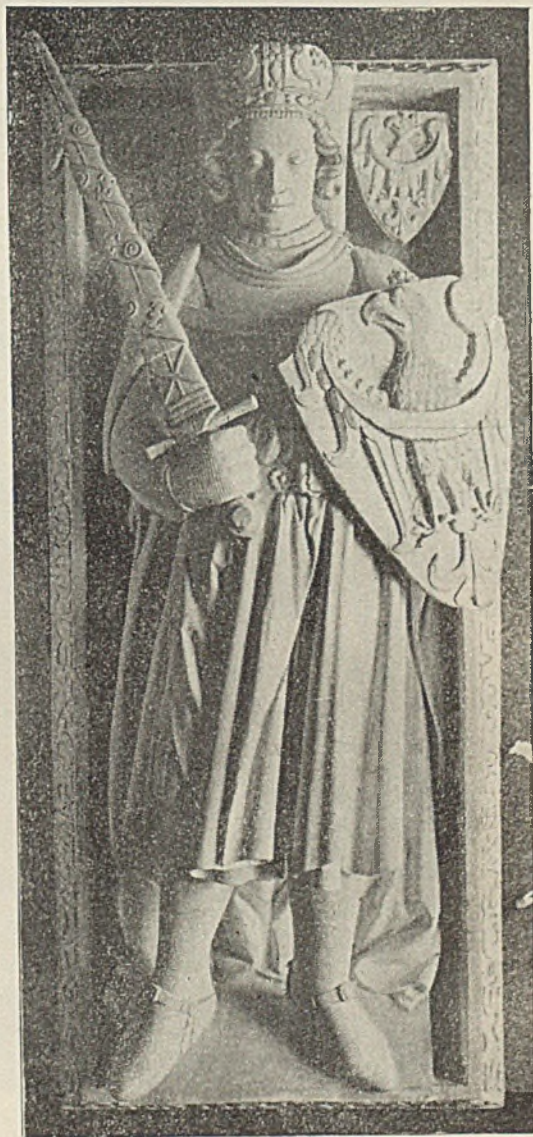
The History of Silesia.

Since the dawn of Polish history, that is since the Xth c. Silesia stretching on both sides of the river Oder up to the Nysa Łużycka belonged to Poland. At first during a few centuries Silesia was a breakwater against the waves of German incursions. When Poland in the XIIIth c. became split up into separate provinces Silesian princes succeeded for several decennia in keeping under their rule a major part of Polish territory.

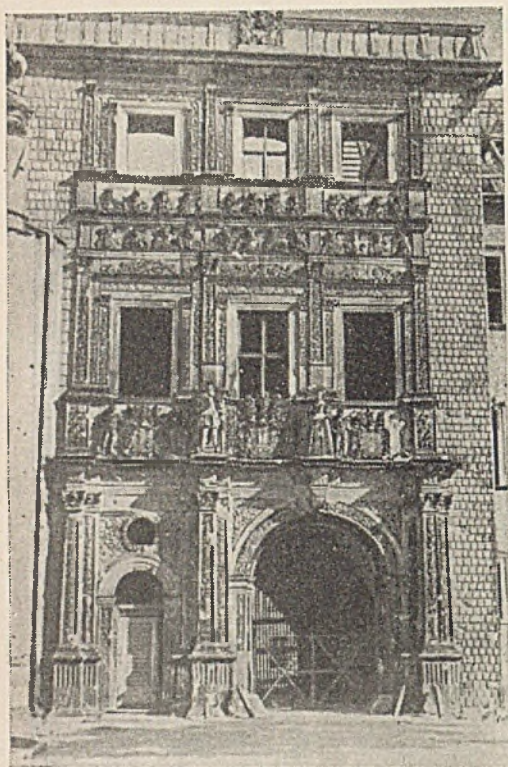
Poland became united again in the beginning of the XIVth c. but Silesia had in the meantime been taken by the Czechs. Although political bonds were severed the relations between Silesia and Poland were kept up. Commerce between Silesia and Polish towns was flourishing. The youth of Silesia studied at the Cracow University. Up to the XVIIth c. the rulers of Silesian principalities and duchies were Piasts, descendants of a Polish royal family, (the last Silesian Piast — the Prince of Legnica, died in 1675). In the period between the XVIth and the XVIIIth c. some Silesian principalities were ruled by members of Polish royal families. The town and country folk kept steadfastly to Polish language and customs in spite of Silesias separation from the Polish State. German colonists settled only in some towns of Lower Silesia (particularly Wrocław), the large majority of Silesian population remaining unflinchingly Polish.

The XVIIIth c. brought about the first changes of that state when Silesia was taken by Frederick II of Prussia. He started a systematic action aiming at a speedy germanization of Silesia. State officials and teachers, clergymen and landowners all had to take part in that action and moreover 60,000 German colonists were settled in Silesia. The forceful germanization by Frederick II and by his successors had the effect of shifting the language boundary line: in the XVIIIth c. the Polish element had to withdraw largely from Lower Silesia, though many Polish

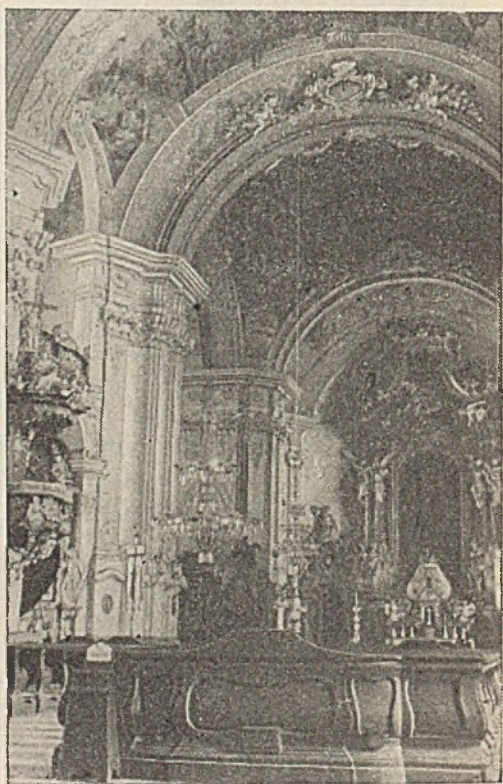
5. Piast eagle on the tumb-stone of Henry the IVth-Prince of Wroclaw in the XIII c.



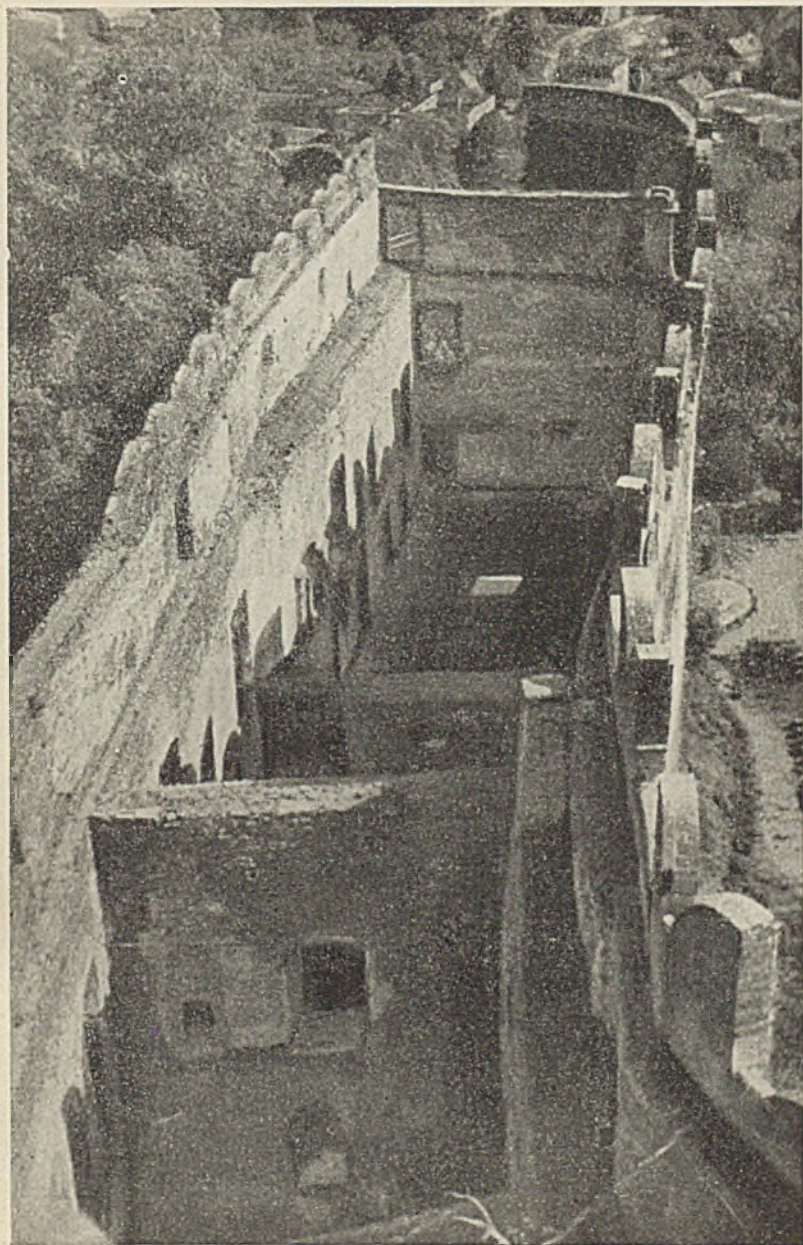
6. Tumb-stone of Henry the IVth,
Prince of Wroclaw, XIII c.



7. Brzeg. Renaissance porch with busts of kings and princes of the Polish Piast Dynasty.



8. Krzeszow. Presbytery of the Piast Mausoleum



9. Ruins of a castle of the Princes of Swidnica—the last to defend the freedom of their principality.



10. Swidnica. Altar of the Wit Stwosz (Veit Stoss) — school. About 1492.

enclaves still remained there around Wrocław, Legnica, Brzeg, Trzebnica, Oława, Świdnica, in the districts of Namysłów and Syców. In Upper Silesia in towns as well as in the country Poles were in a large majority.

In the end of the XVIIIth and in the XIXth c. Upper Silesia underwent decisive economic changes. The mineral wealth of the country (coal and metal ores) became the base of a heavy industry. From the start this development of the German owned industries managed by German directors, engineers and supervisors became a mighty ally in the germanizing activities conducted up till now by the united efforts of administrative offices, the school, the majority of the clergy and the big landowners.

In the defence of national rights the Polish peasant and workman took up that very unequal strife. Poles fought for the right to retain or to introduce their mother tongue in church and office, court and school, in mine or factory.

During the 1848 uprising the people of Silesia claimed equal rights for Poles and Germans. In many country districts peasants revolted against their German masters. Wrocław witnessed a meeting of patriots from Polish territories.

In spite of an ever increasing German pressure (under Bismarck and his successors) the people of Silesia led at first by Karol Miarka and then by other leaders succeeded in editing Polish dailies and Polish books, in founding many associations of a political, economic, welfare or sporting kind. They succeeded to elect an ever increasing number of Poles to the German parliament. One of the outstanding Polish members of parliament was Wojciech Korfanty, who before the war of 1914—18 gave often voice in his speeches in the Berlin parliament to the will of the Silesians to unite with the rest of Poles in an independent state.

After the first Great War Silesia tried thrice by insurrections in 1919, 1920 and 1921 to unite with the resuscitated Polish State. The insurrections led by Korfanty were unsuccessful and only a small part of Silesia has been regained then by Poland. The majority with a population of 1 million had to remain in slavery.

Between the two great wars at first the province of Opole and then in 1939—1945 all Polish districts of Silesia

fought bravely against the exterminating action of the Germans. All available means had to be used in that fight: sabotage as well as guerilla warfare.

The downfall of Germany brought liberation to whole Silesia. Poland returned to the land upon which a thousand years ago her history started. German intruders who during centuries have tried to oust by force the Polish population are gone. Only those of Silesias inhabitants remained who withstood an age-long German oppression keeping in the teeth of it their nationality. They survived to be free Poles again.

ANTONI WRZOSEK, Ph. D.

*Director of the Town- and Country-Planning
Office in Wrocław*

Economical Conditions of Lower Silesia.

The province of Lower Silesia has an area of 24.652 sq. km. (9.500 sq. m.); that is to say, about 8 per cent of the whole territory of Poland. Before the last war it had 3.062.016 inhabitants, i. e. 124 persons per sq. km. Half of the population lived in cities and the rest the country.

Chief sources of livelihood were industry and handicraft (35,5 per cent), agriculture (22,5 per cent), trade and communication (15 per cent) and others (27 per cent).

In spite of the brutal oppressions by Germans, which had to be suffered during centuries, the Poles remained faithful to their old customs and traditions. The Hitler regime tried in a cruel manner to remove the last remnants of the Polish population in Silesia.

Transit trade with Poland was over long periods one of the sources of Silesias economic life. Open Polish markets meant always prosperity for Silesia while any break down of commercial relations with Poland was followed always by an inevitable crisis. The first railway constructed in Silesia in 1842 had to link Wrocław with Cracow, for half of Silesias total trade transactions was up to the middle of the XIXth c. directed over that town.

After the first world war, when the frontiers cut across Silesia, the country had to suffer a painful crisis and the commerce could not be carried on as before. Germans themselves agree that they failed in their efforts to change the East direction of the trade flow. Workmen migrated to Western Germany to find a job there; the wages rose causing an increase of production costs.

The last moments of the war brought a terrific devastation over Silesia. One third of the buildings were destroyed, many cities and factories were damaged in consequence of the hard battles



and German resistance. Wrocław was destroyed in 68 per cent, Głogów — in 92 per cent, Ścinawa in 80 per cent.

As we see all these are towns situated on the line running along the rivers Odra and Nysa Łużycka. The South region only (18 per cent of the province) remained unhurt. This part was taken over after the German capitulation.

The Polish Government had to remove the German population from Lower Silesia and to replace them by Poles. 17000 inhabitants of Polish origin stayed at their birth places accepting Polish citizenship. The great devastation, war demoralisation and lack of skilled man power aggravated the difficulties quite natural under these circumstances. Nevertheless the worst period is over. The exchange of the population has come to an end. In the beginning of 1948 Lower Silesia numbered already over 1.700.000 Poles. The professional structure of the population can not be estimated yet, but it is certain, that farmers are the most numerous. The number of industrial and public service workers is lower now than before the war in consequence of a 40 per cent destruction of cities and factories.

The second problem was the mobilisation of agriculture, industry and mining production of Lower Silesia, in order to secure the basis of subsistence for the population and to transform the province in an economically active part of Poland. It was no easy task. Though villages were damaged in 20 per cent only, the lack of cattle the number of which decreased to 1/10 of the pre-war figure, the lack of manure, as well as of chemical fertilizers and a lack of agricultural tools, was great. On the fields weeds only were growing. It was dangerous to plough because of the mines.

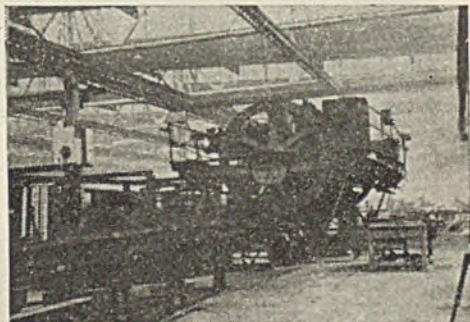
The situation is improving from year to year; the area of fallows — 60 per cent in 1945 — decreased to 35 per cent in 1946 and to 9 per cent in 1947. This year only an insignificant per cent remained and it is to be hoped, that in the next year it will disappear completely.

The management of big property was quite a problem. The Government organised cooperatives. There are 50 now. The rest is reserved for State farms to cultivate cattle, plants and seeds. 66 per cent of the whole

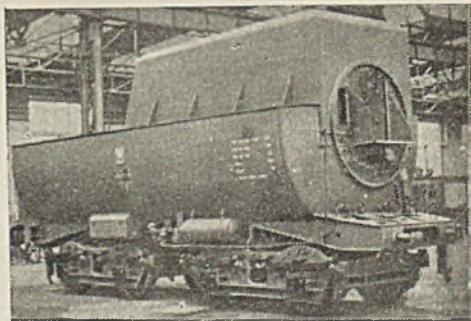
11. State Railway-Car Factory at the moment of taking-over of Wrocław by Polish authorities.

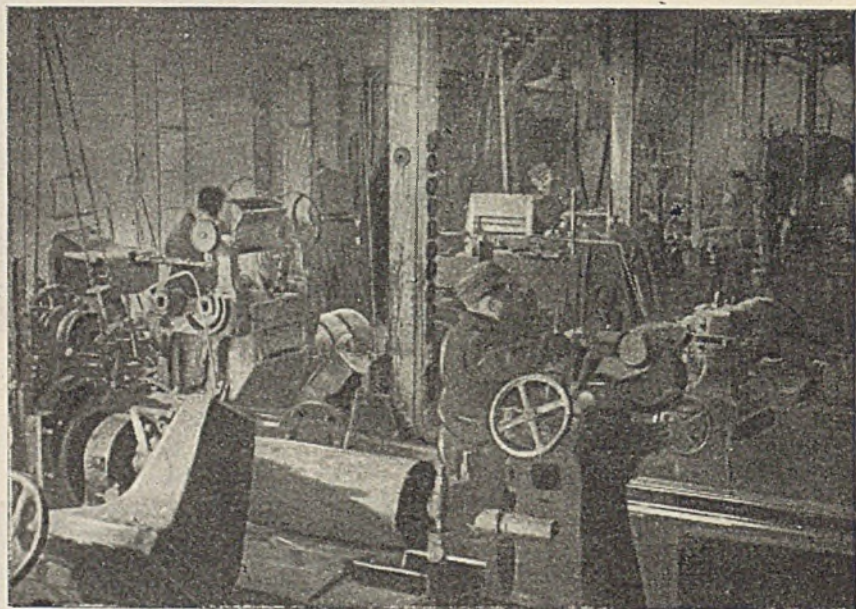


12. State Railway-Car Factory after reconstruction.



13. A tender. Post-war production of the State Railway-Car Factory.





14. Factory of Flour-milling Tools and Machinery. Engine lathes in factory hall.



15. State Dress-making Factory in Wrocław. Branch Nr 1.

arable lands is in individual hands. 2 per cent is taken on lease, 16 per cent is managed by the Government and 16 per cent is used by institutions, associations and the army.

The mining production was started more easily. Pitcoal production near Wałbrzych and Nowa Ruda make up 5,7 per cent of the total Polish coal production. This pitcoal is the best of coking coal in Poland. Brown-coal pits were destroyed by Germans or mined during the war and are still not fully exploited. Metal mines (iron, copper, nickel) are of minor importance only.

Manufacturing industry in Lower Silesia consisted rather of small and medium size factories though numerous in the different branches. The industry has been destroyed in a terrific way. The metal industry in 80 per cent, the chemical in 49 per cent respectively; the textile industry was ruined and converted into army factories. Out of 29 pre-war sugar factories only two could be set in motion.

The state invested milliards of zlotys in industry of Lower Silesia. At present 14 sugar factories are working and the next 3 are in a state of restoration. In August 1945 six metal factories were running and 37 in 1946. Electric works were destroyed up to 30 per cent, transmitting stations and high tension lines up to 80 per cent. At present only less than 20 per cent remain to be reconstructed.

The reconstruction of the industry of Lower Silesia is still far from being completed, nevertheless it makes up already 20 per cent of Poland's industrial power, whereas before the war it constituted roughly only 4 per cent of the total of Germany's industry. The prospects of the development of that industry are much better now than before, owing to Silesia's union with Poland which opens up big trade markets and provides convenient communication with Polish sea ports. Thus the economical future of Lower Silesia is bound up with Poland.

The industry of Silesia will have to be adjusted to the needs of the new economic organisation of the country and of its new population. The service in the exchange of goods between village and town will have to be quickened and

intensified, communication lines readjusted to new directions: towards Warsaw, the Baltic sea ports and Czechoslovakia. Several small towns which are economically weakened by the effects of the war, must in the future regain their individual importance.

The results achieved already are satisfactory, but in the view of the aims to be attained there remains still a mighty task to be performed in Lower Silesia.

The Population of Silesia.

(state as on the 1. I. 1948).

— Silesia occupies an area of 40.100 sq. kilometres (informational data of the „Biuro studiów osadniczo-prze-siedleńczych, part 1^{ca}”) On the 17. V. 1939 it was inhabited by 4,579.000 people, of these 1,517.000 were living in the Silesia of Opole and 3,062.000 in Lower Silesia (Voivodship of Wrocław). On the 1. I. 1948 in both Silesia of Opole and the Voivodsh. of Wrocław 2,994.000. people were living, of these 2,987.000 were Poles and 7.0000 of non-Polish nationality. This figure amounts to 65,4 per cent of the 4.579.000 people in 1939. The growth of the Polish population is best illustrated by the following figures: 17th May 1939 there were 959.000 Poles in both voivodships, on the 14th February 1946 — 1,751.000, on 1 June 1947 — 2.890.000 and on January the 1st 1948 — already 2,987.000.

Silesias population falls into three main groups according to their origin:

Group I: autochtonous population, inhabiting mainly the Silesia of Opole and those districts of Lower Silesia which border upon Wielkopolska.

Group II: Repatrees from Germany, France, USSR and other European and overseas countries, and from the territories over the new Polish-Soviet frontier.

Group III: settlers from central Poland.

According to a rough estimate the population was distributed according to origin in the following way (January the 1st 1948):

Voivodship	Total	Autochtones	Repatrees	Settlers
		i n t h o u s a n d s		
Wroclawskie	1,738	17	800	921
Śląsko-dąbrowskie	1,249	852	250	147
Sum	2,987	869	1,050	1,068

Among the 1050 th. repatriees approximately 950 th. came from over the Curzon-line, the rest are former emigrants to Germany (10th., mainly from the Russian sector), France and Belgium (50 th.) and Roumania (4 th.). These emigrants left Poland in quest of work mostly between the two World-wars. — Some groups emigrated even before World-war I — this applies particularly to those from Roumania, Yougoslavia and Germany. Most of them are skilled industry workers, miners and craftsmen (particularly those from France, Belgium, Germany and Roumania) whereas the reemigrants from Yougoslavia are mostly farmers. The reemigrants show a tendency to settle in groups on pre-chosen sites. The miners from France and Belgium settled around Walbrzych, farmers from Yougoslavia in the areas of Bolesławiec and Lubań. Special mention must be made of a Jewish concentration on the Regained Territories who settled in the area of Dzierżoniów. The number of Jews settled there reaches 30 th. They are composed of workers as well as farmers. Their concentration on a single area permits of a free cultivation of Jewish national and religious traditions.

In both Silesian voivodships 45 per cent of the population lives in towns and 55 per cent in the country. This constitutes a change as against the 47,6 per cent of town- and 52,4 per cent of rural population in 1939, explained by the fact that towns, particularly big towns suffered more destruction during the war than rural districts. Wrocław suffered a 68 per cent destruction and its present-day population is over 250 th., whereas in 1939 it numbered 621 th. inhabitants.

Year	Population in towns	Population in country	Total population
1939	47.6%	52.4%	1,000,000
Present day	45%	55%	1,050,000



16. The 1st May celebrations on the Grunwald Square in Wrocław in 1948.



17. Banners.



18. Miners on parade in Wrocław streets.



19 „First at reconstruction”—a slogan of the youth of Wrocław

The Odra in the political and economical structure of Poland.

Rivers have always played a considerable part in the history of nations as they are fundamental elements in the geographical position and so have influence upon the essential lines of development of nations. Two rivers have that importance for Poland: they are the Vistula and the Odra which embrace the territory that was the cradle of our nation.

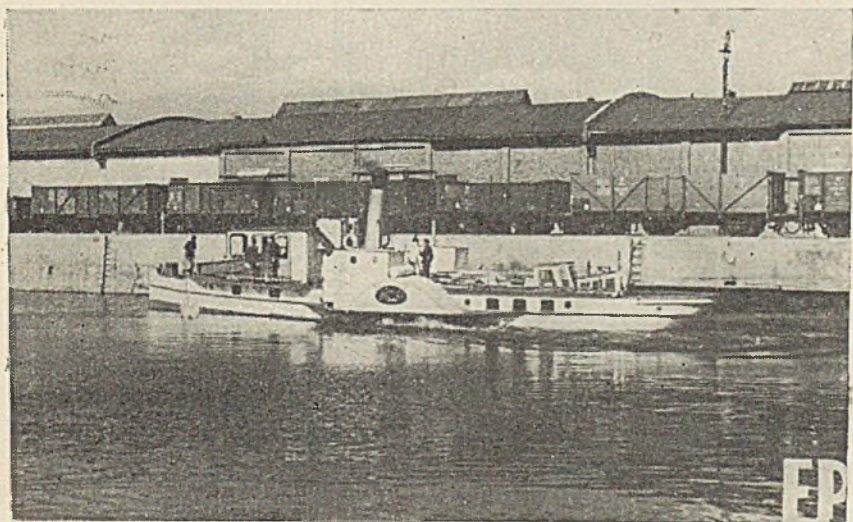
Especially the part played by the Odra reaches far beyond the ordinary economic influence, for its very geographical position in relation to Poland's national territory in its present shape gives that river a great political importance. The basin of the Odra lies almost entirely within the boundaries of the Polish national territory and is connected closely and without transitions with the basin of the Vistula in the central parts of the country; the western margin of the Odra basin is on the contrary drawn sharp along the ridges of Sudety Mountains and the ridge of the watershed between the Odra and the Elbe, with which the Odra has no natural connections. Thus the state frontier along the Odra and the Lusatian Nysa leaves on the Polish side not an arbitrarily severed fragment of territory but a firm geographical unit forming a coherent whole with the Polish territories adjacent to the Vistula.

The circumstance that this whole coherent complex has been united under one system of administration viz. the Polish is decisive for the possibilities of its systematic development. For according to modern views on planning in matters of hydrographical economics the exploitation of natural possibilities of a river-basin for navigation, water energy, water-supplying, soil improvement etc. is only possible if the river-basin is taken as a functional whole and is centrally administered. The Odra is a striking instance of the correctness of such a view. Within the German economic system, when

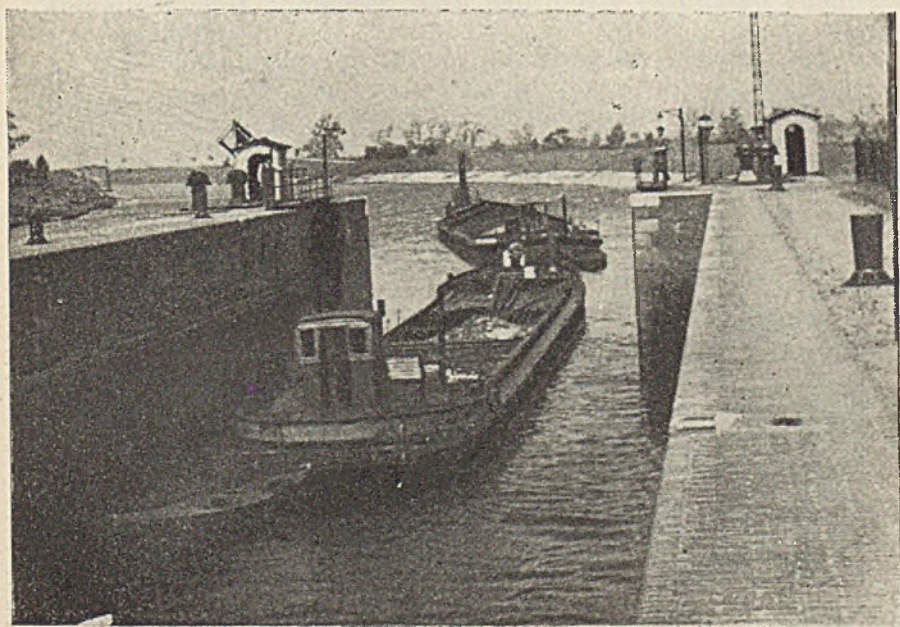
the basin was cut in two by the frontier, the Odra could only play a secondary rôle viz. as a way for transport to Berlin and the natural direction of the river, which is North-South, had to be pressed into a system of transport ways running East-West; besides it is only the sections: Szczecin-Berlin and Mining District-Berlin, that were made use of, whereas on the middle section of the Odra course and on its tributary the Warta and the Noteć the business was quite insignificant. Thus a river the destination of which it is to become a part of the transcontinental water-way: Baltic Sea — Black Sea was in respect of communication cut in parts and used for local purposes only. This neglect of the Odra system extended consequently to Szczecin too, a port improperly constructed, one-sidedly utilized and even purposely checked in its development by the Germans, who directed the transports from its natural supplying area via Hamburg, which was their favourite base for sea commerce.

Now the situation is entirely different: the Odra is used in the first line as the water way connecting the Mining and Industrial District of Upper Silesia with the sea, thus for purposes on a state-scale, not without importance for European coal economics. Besides it is used in its whole length and according to its natural direction; Szczecin is being reconstructed and rebuilt on modern principles according to its present rôle as a gate from the Odra into the open sea and one of great transit capacity. As the conditions become more and more normal, it is easy to foresee, the traffic on the line the Odra — Vistula (through the Noteć and the Bydgoszcz-Canal) will increase too. Finally the importance of the Odra and Szczecin as a positive economic item on a European scale will increase enormously when the connection of the Odra with the Danube is realized.

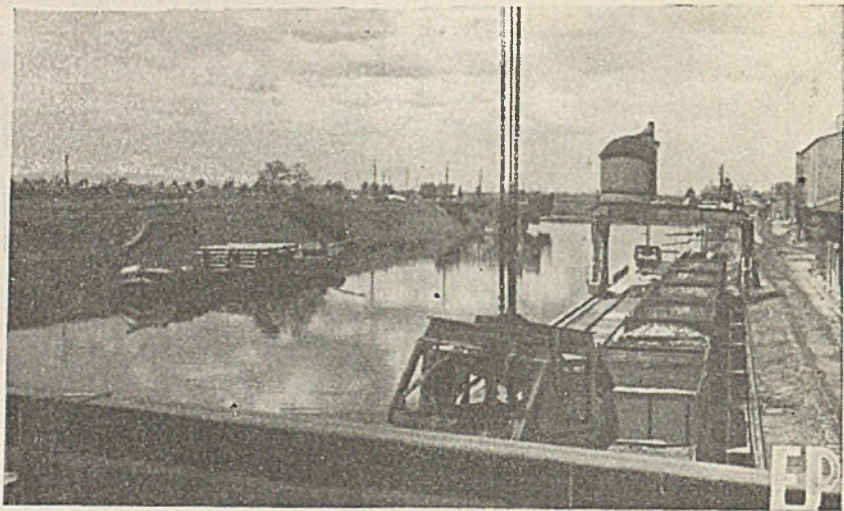
The importance of the Odra-Danube-Canal consists primarily in its connecting the territories of highly developed industry in the North with the agricultural South in Balkan Peninsula and adjacent to the Danube. It is a natural and necessary element in the network of European water ways, and the development of economic relations in this part of our Continent has been tending for a long time to its realisation. The



20. Opole. Loading of coal in the river-port.



21. Brzeg. Trawl-boat with barges leaving a sluice.



22. Opole. Loading of gravel in the river-port.



23. Port of Szczecin. Traffic on the Oder.

important rôle played by it is particularly evident if we consider the great cheapness of transport along that waterway as compared with the railways (according to a very detailed calculation the freights will be about 60—75 per cent, below those on the railways).

For Poland the Odra-Danube Canal may be decisive in opening the southern trade markets, not open as yet, but allowing best hopes for the future, to mention only the possibilities of selling our coal in the South, after the present demand for this article in the West has passed. Profits from the expected transit through Poland of the articles from the countries lying in the natural supplying area of the port in Szczecin as Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Austria and parts of Yugoslavia and Roumania — should be added.

The construction of the canal became directly realizable in connection with the stipulations of the Polish-Czechoslovakian agreement of June 1947. The expense of the construction of the about 50 km long Polish section of the canal from Koźle on the Odra to the State frontier amounts to nearly 6.000.000.000 Zł and is thus unproportionally low if compared with cautiously estimated economic advantages.

The adaptation of the Odra—Szczecin complex to its new tasks is the leading motive of the program of its reconstruction and re-building. Three main stages may be distinguished in that program: reconstruction of war-destroyed objects; making the Odra navigable to ships of 650 t, and finally extension to allow ships of 1000 t.

The reconstruction has been — in spite of enormous destruction especially in the ports and vessels — in its fundamental lines accomplished (1 Dec. 1947), final accomplishment is planned for 1948; it should be considered that the Odra was finally taken over by the Polish administration as late as August 1946. The reconstruction of the port in Szczecin closely connected with its fundamental re-planning will last considerably longer, especially as it was finally taken over only half a year ago.

Making the Odra navigable to 650 t ships has been started as follows: the construction of a reservoir in Mianów on the Bystrzyca has been commenced, the reservoir in Turawa on the Mała Panew has been finished and the reservoirs in Dzierżno on the Kłodnica have been extended.

It should be noted that the Odra from Koźle to Rędzin (10 km below Wrocław) is canalised, which allows regular navigation of 650 t ships in this section. From Rędzin to the mouth of the Warta the conditions for navigation are the most unfavourable. The latest investigations seem to show that the method planned by the Germans to obtain the sufficient depth for 650 t ships in this section is not applicable; the possibility of bringing the canalisation as far down as Kostrzyń is being studied, which would not only solve the problem of navigation but besides would yield as additional advantage electric energy — about 400.000.000 Kwh yearly. Below the mouth of the Warta the Odra is naturally navigable to 650 t ships.

The extension of navigability up to 1000 t is only being studied, but in all the projects now made appropriate dimensions of the objects (sluices, bridges, port buildings etc.) are taken into consideration, that the transition to this stage may be accomplished gradually and with least possible expense. Final decisions in this matter however depend in a considerable measure on factors that are not strictly technical, as the legal status on the Odra, the matter of the whole system of water ways in Poland etc.

To sum up: it is evident that in the present shape of political boundaries, now that the whole Odra-basin lies within one economic organism and uniform administration of the whole river-system is possible, new prospects of development are open before the Odra. An unbiased comparison of the factors that give the complex Odra—Szczecin its position within the Polish economic organism with those that qualified its relation to the German economic organism tends to the conclusion that economically it is an unproportionally more important entry for Poland than it has ever been for Germany: it is enormously more of a gain for us than it is of a loss for the Reich. It is safe to infer that this Polish river and adjacent Polish territories are going to have a new era of intensive development.

ANTONI WRZOSEK, Ph. D.

Director of the Town-and Country-Plannig Office
in Wrocław

Tourism and health resorts in Lower Silesia.

Voyevodship Lower Silesia undoubtedly holds in Poland the second place in respect of touristic and recreative value next to Voyevodship Cracow. That is due to a great variety of landcapes comprising almost all kinds of landscape found in Poland except seaside and highest mountains.

The most important factor in that high touristic value of Lower Silesia is the possession of almost the whole Polish part of Sudety Mountains; they are of medium height but extremely varied and they are an important region for mountaineering in Summer as in Winter. That 200 km long range stretches along the southern border between Lower Silesia and Czechoslovakia. The most interesting part of Sudety M. are undoubtedly Karkonosze M., the highest summit of which -- Mount Śnieżka reaches the height of 1,605 m. Karkonosze M. are excellently managed, they have a dense network of hostels; at the foot of this range lie a number of well-equipped health resorts, the largest of which and having the most picturesque situation are Karpacz and Szklarska Poręba. The main attractions of these mountains are postglacial rock-basins, lakes, waterfalls, interesting mountain-flora and wide prospects from the summits. Many points of interest to a tourist are found in other parts of Sudety Mountains too. In the group of Śnieżnik Kłodzki (1424 m) there are excellent skiing grounds and in Summer you may see some best preserved mountain-flora and old primitive forests. "Table Mountains" (Góry Stołowe) west of Kłodzko are remarkable for their great variety of fantastic rock-formations. In the vicinity of Wrocław (35 km south west) Mount Sobólka (718 m) is an outstanding touristic point of interest: it towers lonely from the plain of Lower Silesia offering a grand prospect on a number of towns and villages, large stretches of Silesian plains and the whole Sudety Range. That mountain was in old times a centre of religious wors-

hip of heathen Slavs and many historical remains have been preserved in its vicinity.

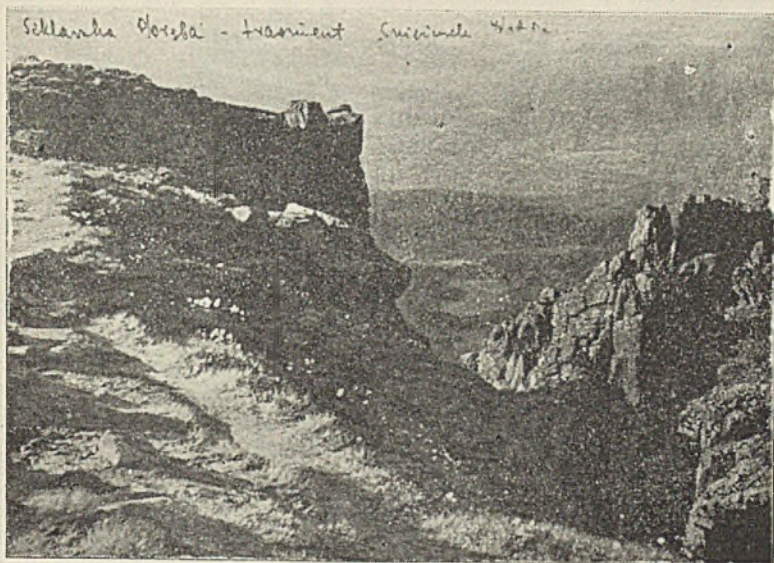
In the region of Lower Silesian Sudety M. a considerable number of mineral springs are found; they have high medicinal qualities and establishments are attached to them such as may satisfy all demands of very fastidious visitors. The most important watering-places in Lower Silesia are: Kudowa-Zdrój (Kudowa Springs) (400 m) a luxuriously furnished establishment with springs of alkaline-arsenic and iron waters applied in heart diseases, anaemia and bronchocele (goitre). Duszniki-Zdrój (Duszniki Springs) (568 m) with earthy and iron springs applied in heart diseases, diseases of the digestive tract and rheumatism is also a well-known centre for winter sports. Polanica-Zdrój (Polanica Springs) (400 m) with an abundant spring of alkaline-iron water is recognized as the most effective place for curing of heart diseases. These three spas lie west of Kłodzko and have fast-train connections to Wrocław, Warsaw and Katowice. In the vicinity of Wałbrzych lies very beautifully equipped Szczawno-Zdrój (Szczawno Springs) (400 m), the seat of the Administration of the Lower Silesian health resorts, with springs of earthy and alkaline water prescribed for diseases of respiratory organs, kidneys, urinary ducts, asthma and arthritis (gout).

Cieplice-Zdrój (Cieplice Springs) (347 m) connected by a tram-line with the town of Jelenia Góra (6 km distance) has neutral hot springs (up to +44°C) the warmest in Poland, applied in rheumatism, exhaustion, joint diseases and gynaecological diseases.

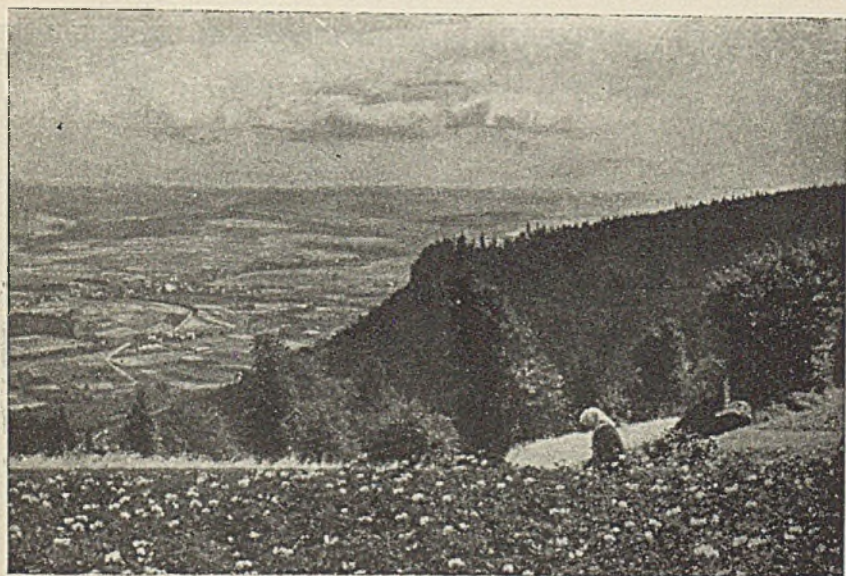
Świeradów-Zdrój (Świeradów Springs) (470—600 m) lies in Izerskie Mountains 40 km west of Jelenia Góra; it has springs of iron water and radioactive water. Prescribed for heart diseases, blood and gynaecological diseases and general exhaustion of the organism. It is a remarkably quiet place abounding in woods and beautifully situated.

Łądek-Zdrój (Łądek Springs) (450—500 m) has the strongest in Poland radioactive springs (up to +29°C): excellent action on rheumatism, joints diseases and general exhaustion; it is also a good starting point for tourists; it lies west of Kłodzko.

Besides the mentioned and many other smaller spas,



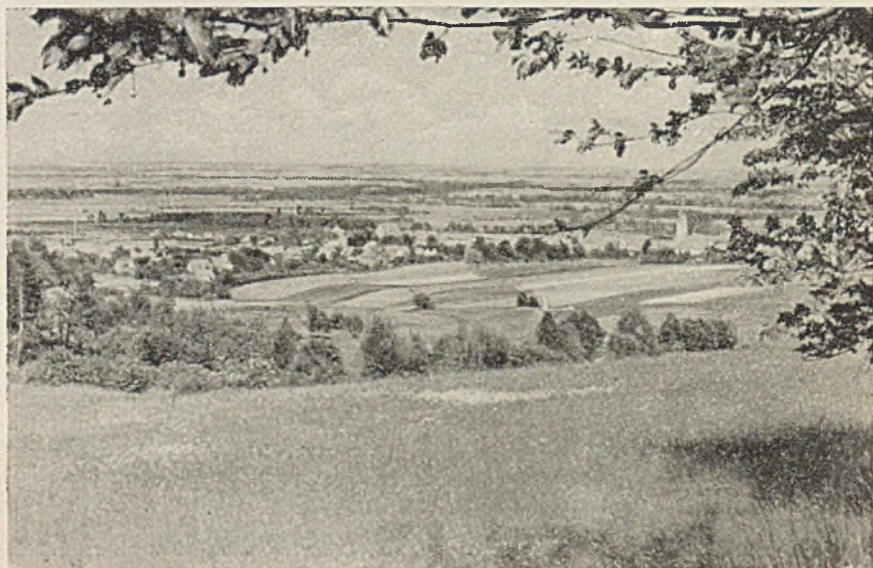
24. Szklarska Poręba. — A part of the „Śnieżne Kotły”.



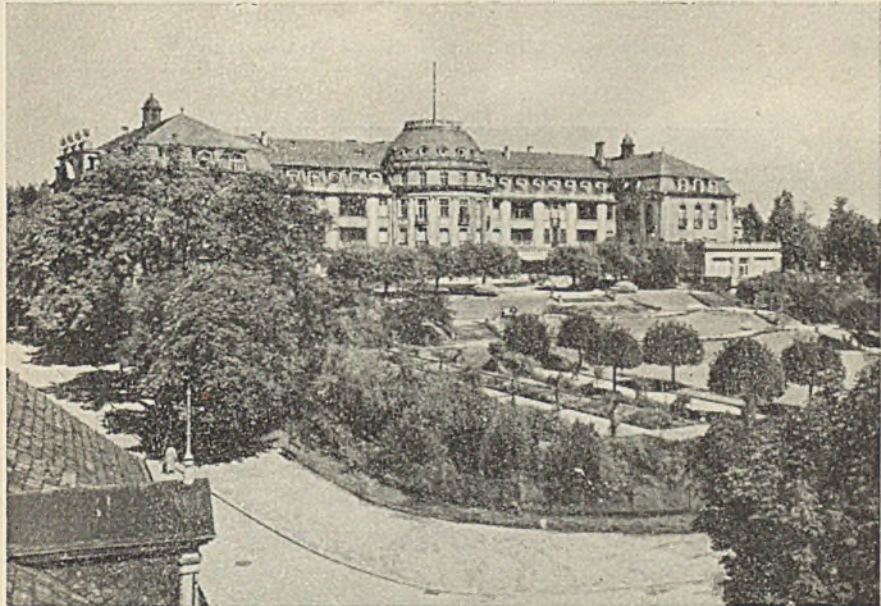
25. View from the „Góry Stołowe” (table mountains).



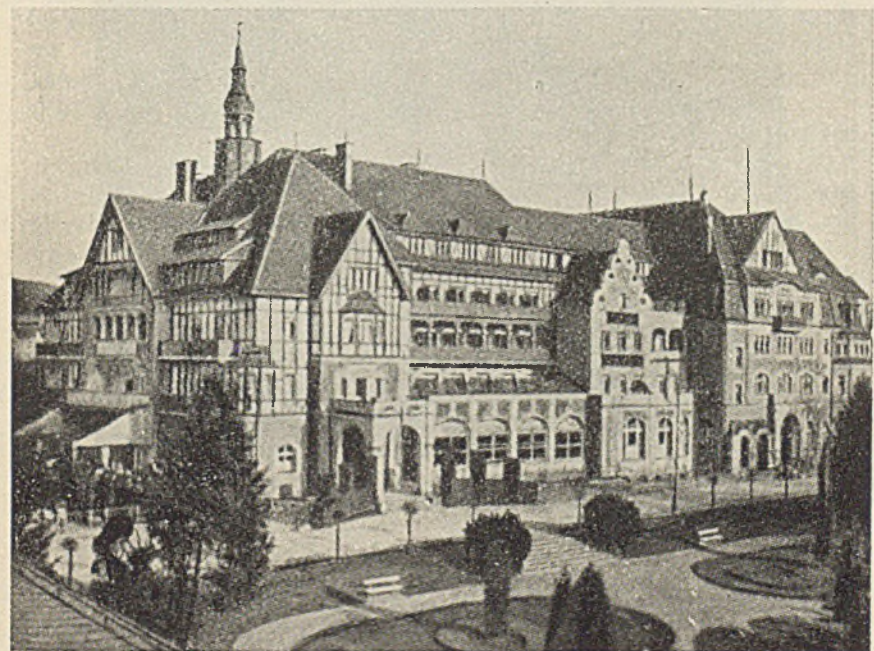
26. A road in the Sudety.



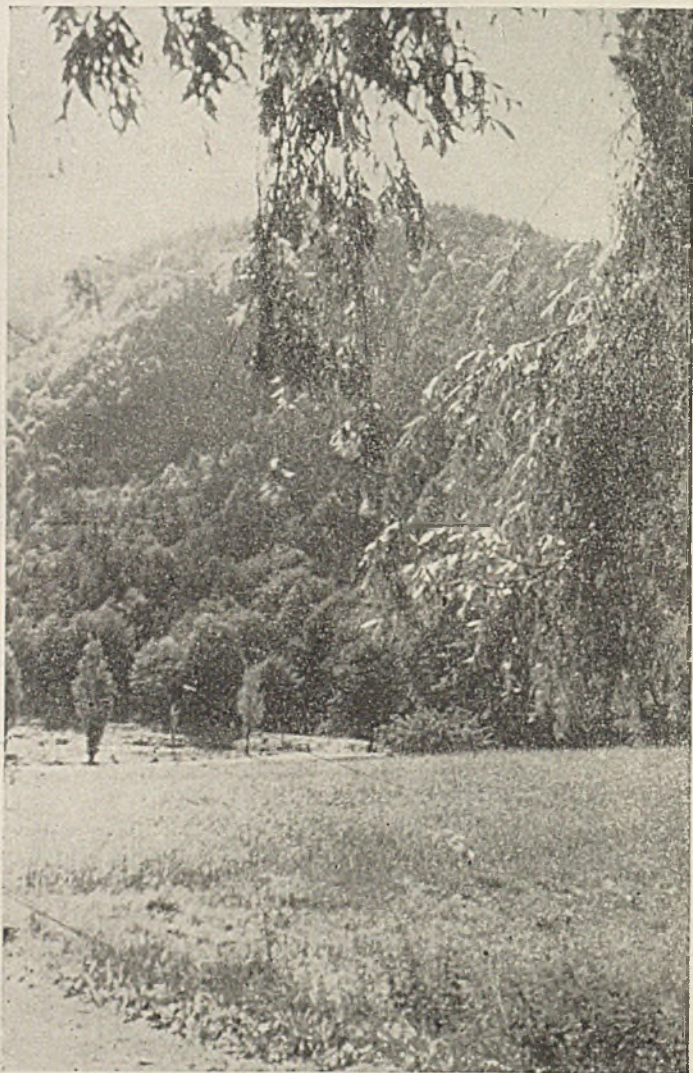
27. View upon Sobótka at the foot of a hill of the same name—once a centre of pagan worship.



28. Szczawno-Springs. Seat of the Central Office of Healthresorts.



29. Kudowa-Springs. Spa for heart diseases and goitre.



30. Bardo Mountain, near the health-resort of the same name.

Lower Silesia possesses several outstanding centres for climatic action on lung tuberculosis (consumption), the most important of which are Sokołowsko in the vicinity of Wałbrzych and Bukowiec east of Jelenia Góra. In spite of serious war destructions the towns of Lower Silesia possess a considerable number of interesting monumental buildings, many of them have also remarkably picturesque situation. Thus e. g. remains of medieval city-walls, towers and fortifications have been best preserved in Lwówek, Środa, Koźuchów, Ziębice and Bystrzyca. In Chełmsko and Międzylesie there are interesting wooden buildings. Many dwelling houses in baroque or renaissance style are found in Bytom Odrzański, Łądek, Nowa Ruda, Chełmsko, Jelenia Góra and Jawór. In Wrocław there are some magnificent churches built before Lower Silesia fell under German domination, a renaissance City Hall and interesting specimens of modern architecture; badly damaged, they are gradually raised from the ruins.

In Kłodzko and Srebrna Góra very well preserved fortifications from the XVIII c. draw the attention of the visitor. Who is interested in picturesque Polish folklore may see it at its best in the indulgence-places such as Trzebnica, Wambierzyce, Bardo and Krzeszów. Krzeszów has a magnificent church the most beautiful specimen of baroque style in Silesia.

The rivers and lakes and the artificial reservoirs on mountain rivers allow high development of water sports. The quiet and abounding in forests region round Milicz (50 km north-east of Wrocław) is known for abundance of fish and water- and marsh-fowl.

Lower Silesia possesses the most dense network of good roads and railways of all parts of Poland, so it is possible to reach easily — especially by motor car — all places of any importance and even to drive on to many summits offering magnificent prospects. Such is e. g. Mount Chełmiec (850 m) near Wałbrzych commanding a beautiful view on the whole Sudety Range and especially on the coal mining district in the vicinity of Wałbrzych.

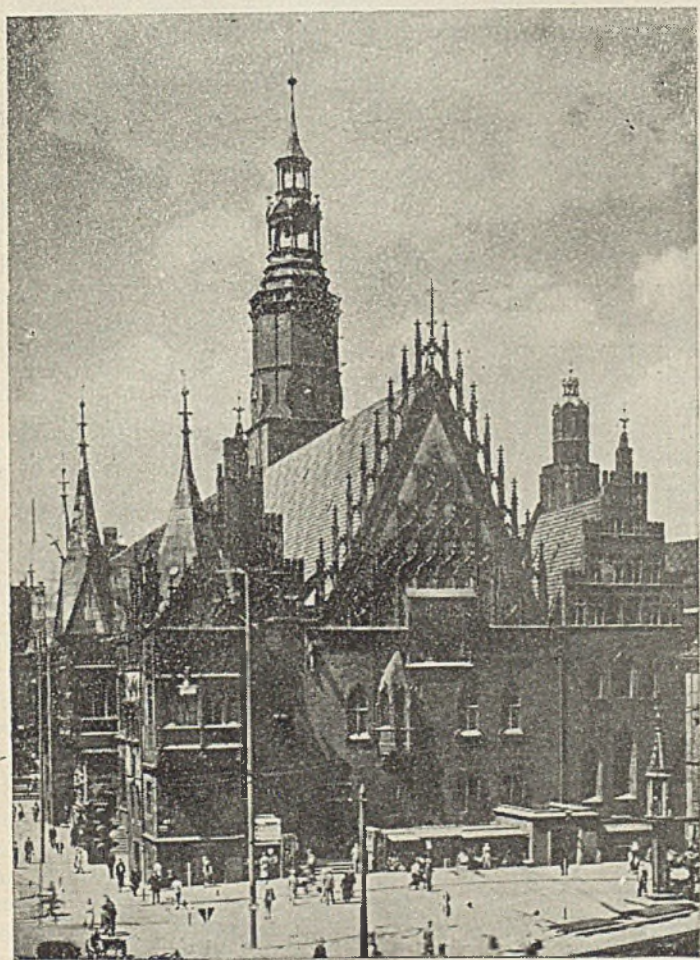
KAROL MALECZYŃSKI, Ph. D.
Professor at the Wrocław University

Wrocław — Its History.

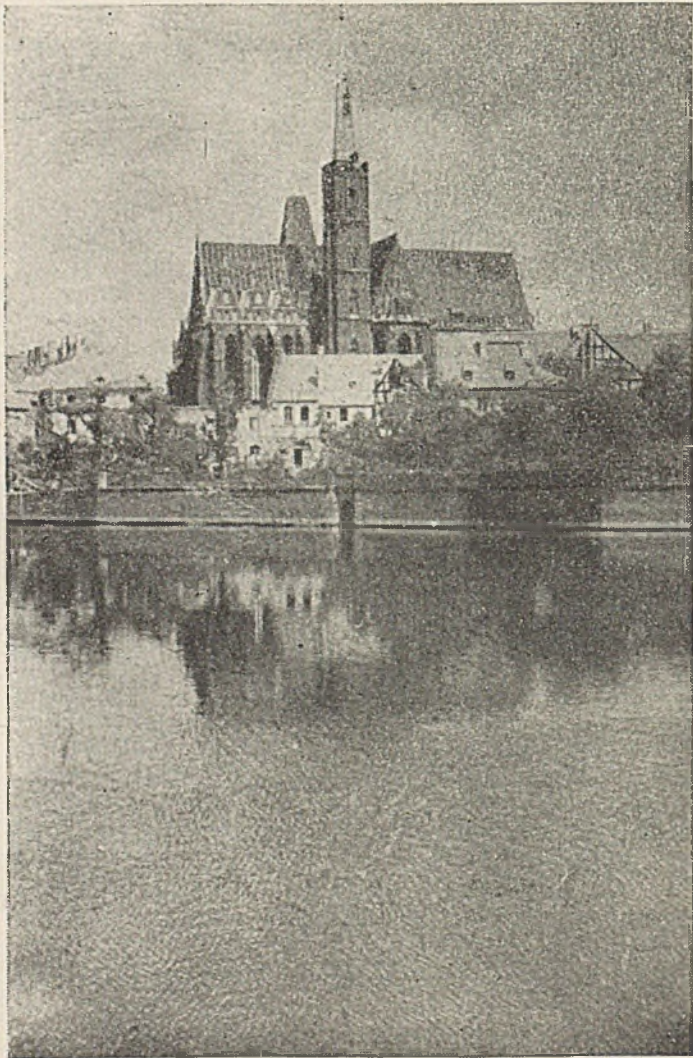
The name of Wrocław appears in the Xth century as the name of a settlement inhabited from time immemorial and situated on a ford, where the main commercial roads running from Italy to the amber bearing shores of the Baltic and from Russia to the Western countries cross the river Oder. Wrocław owes its later political and commercial development to this favourable situation.

It becomes the seat of a bishopric subordinate to the Archbishop of Gniezno, later it becomes a capital of an independent principality and then the capital of almost the whole of Poland, united for a short time under the rule of Silesian princes. Privileges of the Magdeburg civic law are conferred to it and behind the shelter of turreted walls it develops quickly. Goods imported from Flanders and the Rhineland are changed here for the agricultural products of Poland and the silk and spices of the East. Wrocław becomes a link in the commerce of the East with the West and of the North with the South and grows in riches and extent. A town-hall is erected here which is one of the finest monuments of Gothic lay art in Central Europe, churches and city walls are constructed.

In spite of the steady inflow of German colonists the town is still Polish in its spirit. In 1322 it claims to be incorporated within the Kingdom of Poland. After having fallen under the rule of the Luxemburgs of Bohemia it complains repeatedly of being no longer able to entertain direct commercial relations with the East. But gradually Wrocław becomes German, in appearance at least. City records are German now and not Latin as they used to be before. Persecutions of Poles are started after their revolts against the German patriciate. The city declines to recognise the King of Bohemia George of Podiebrad and later King Ladislaus the Jagiellonian on the sole ground of their being Slav princes. But on the other hand Wrocław rejoices at the peace concluded in 1466 between the Germanic Or-



31. Wrocław. Town-Hall



32. Wrocław. Church of the Holy Cross.

der and Poland as it opens prospects of an unhindered commerce for the town. Though separated by political frontiers the town keeps up closest relations with Poland. Wrocław citizens study at the University of Cracow, some of them even settle in Poland and become most loyal subjects. The Thirty Years War brought a revival of Polish elements in Wrocław. Books in Polish were published and dictionaries and grammars prove particularly that this language must have been current in daily use in Wrocław and Germans had to admit it and learn it. Korn, a Wrocław publishing firm of the time, issued often more publications in Polish than in German. In the end of the XVIIIth c. Wrocław's commercial exchange with Poland outweighed its exchange with other towns of the German Reich. Even those of its citizens who claimed to be German had as often as not pure Poles among their nearest relations or admitted to have only recently forgotten Polish. All this proves that as late as the XVIII-th c. Wrocław could not be called German to the core.

In 1740 Wrocław came under Prussian rule but in spite of the germanizing policy of Frederick II, in spite of an intense colonisation with Germans, the town, or at least the lower classes of its population, remained faithful to Polish language and customs. The poets Niemcewicz and Pol visiting Wrocław in the forties of last century were struck by the fact that Polish is still often heard there, traders, cart drivers and servants using it currently. The streets were seemingly German (they mention bi-lingual sign-boards), but the interior of the houses had still a Polish character. The German University of Wrocław numbered at the time many Poles among its students; there were some Polish students associations where Polish National Days were solemnly celebrated. The Prussian Government had even to close the Teachers Seminary for plotting against Prussia with youth organisations from the Congress-Duchy of Poland. 1848 brings a full manifestation of the Polish character of the town. In May of that year a congress held in Wrocław assembles Polish local and foreign political leaders making ready for a general meeting of Slav delegates which is to take place in Prague. One of the detachments of the National Guards formed then in Wrocław was Polish and had

for its colours the national Polish white-and-red banner. These colours were often flown from the balcony of Mr. Pinder's house who was President of the Wrocław regency at the time. At meetings of German Democratic Clubs Polish speakers could openly assert Poland's claims finding an understanding audience. Arms and munitions were bought up in Wrocław for insurgents fighting in Galicia and the province of Poznań. But all this was a short episode only. A few months later the old anti-polish policy of Arnim and Bismarck is resumed. Nevertheless the University of Wrocław kept on being a centre where Poles from all parts of the three-partitioned Poland came to study. Between 1858 and 1866 the average number of Polish students at the Philosophical Faculty of that University was 57—66. They were able to keep up the Slav Literary Society which was founded as far back as 1836, and among its members we find men whose names became later famous in Polish art or science. Young Poles from Wrocław took active part in the insurrection of 1863 and in that fight with Czarist Russia half of them lost their life proving thus that they, like all Poles, were ready to pay the highest price for Poland's freedom.

Meanwhile the German terror grew steadily and the last seventy years brought a continual increase of germanization, but did not succeed in erasing completely the traces of the past Polish spirit of the town. Whereas in the XIXth and in the beginning of the XXth c. the last Polish traces were still openly displayed, now they became hidden but none the less plainly noticeable. Even today we can find proofs of it on Wrocław's cemeteries. Hundreds and hundreds of Polish family names, sometimes atrociously germanized, sometimes unchanged in their spelling show how recently Wrocław has become a German town. Between the Great Wars in spite of an open terror which reached its acme under the Nazi regime, we still find a school with over a hundred Polish children, Polish student associations continually attacked by gangs of German students, we find a Polish public library which, though looted by a German mob in 1919, had still 7.000 volumes. It was only in 1935 that the Nazis succeeded in removing the last Polish

sign-board from Wrocław's streets. There is a long roll of names of those who were martyred to death by Hitler's henchmen, which is the last and lasting sign that the Polish spirit of this town, though mutilated and decimated withstood six centuries of oppression and that Wrocław really never ceased to be Polish.

JÓZEF RYBICKI, Architect
Director of the Wrocław Reconstruction Office

Wrocław.

The Reconstruction of the Town.

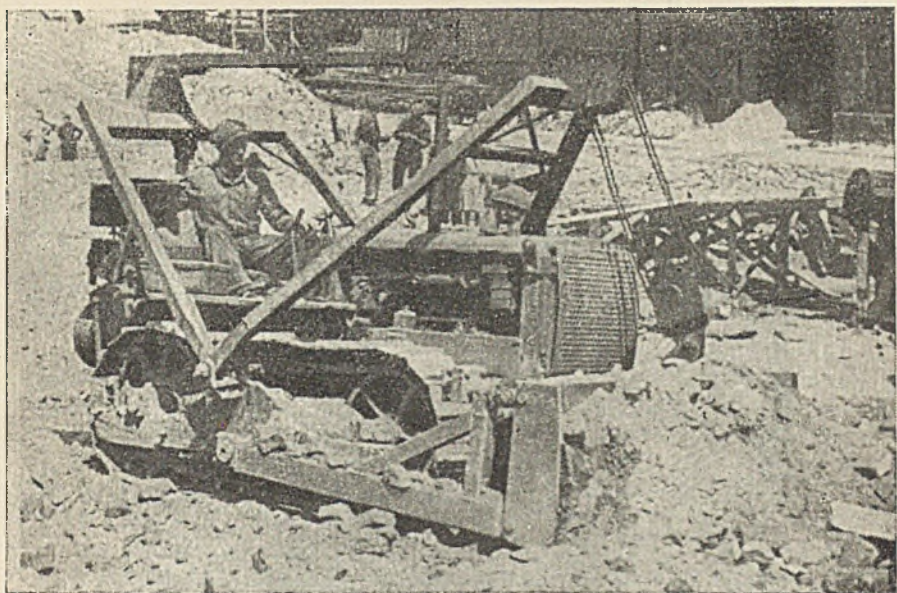
Wrocław is one of the biggest and at the same time one of the most ruined towns in Poland. Its situation, its area, the unequal distribution of destructions, along with the fact that the town came under Polish rule in an utterly ruined state, create a problem of reconstruction which differs in many points from that of other Polish towns.

The town of an area of 17 thousand hectares and 625 thousand pre-war population suffered a 60 per cent destruction during a siege of three months.

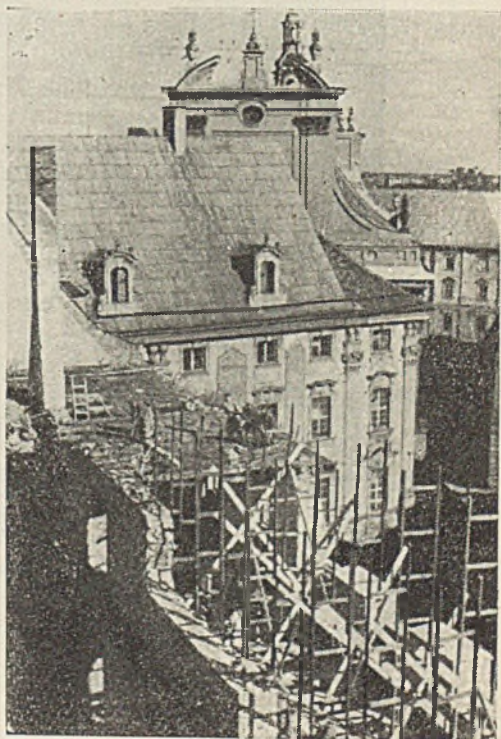
The main thrust of the attack came from the South and the West, reducing to 100 per cent destruction by aerial bombing, fires and street fights the finest residential southern quarters and the western industrial quarters of the town. Even now they form a vast expanse of ruins and their rebuilding must be postponed to the last phase of the planned reconstruction.

The rest of the town i. e. its central part destroyed in 50 per cent and its northern and eastern quarters with a rate of destruction ranging from 10—30 per cent, came quite naturally first under reconstruction.

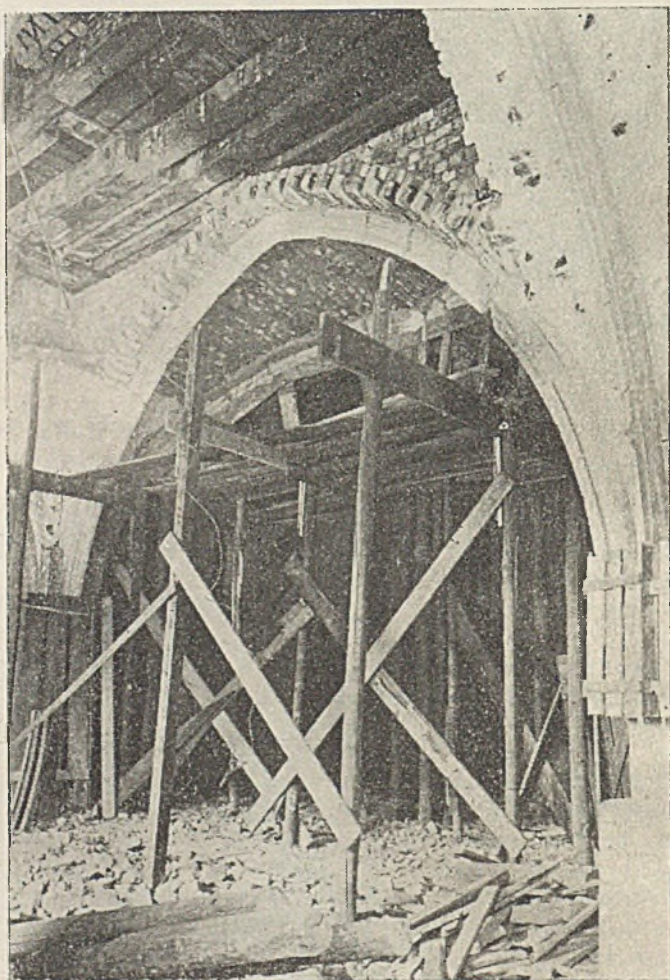
The unequal distribution of destructions facilitates to some degree the planning of reconstructive activities, by giving priority to some parts of the town and by eliminating others for the time being. Another factor in planning is the relation of the available financial resources to the degree of destruction on the one hand and the actual needs of the restarted life of the city on the other, as well as the necessity of protecting the less damaged buildings against atmospheric influence. Unfortunately nearly all roofs in Wrocław were covered only with tiles and so at the end of the siege almost none of the buildings had intact roofing nor any windows of course. What escaped direct hits got none the less smashed by



33. Debris clearing precedes reconstruction! A bulldozer in action.



34. University buildings under reconstruction.



35. Town-Hall in Wroclaw. Part of the vaults of the Prince's Hall under reconstruction.

air-blasts. Thus roofing, starting with the least damaged buildings, had to be the first reconstructive or rather protecting activity. In 1945 roofing was provided to buildings damaged up to 25 per cent, in 1946 to those damaged up to 30 per cent and in 1947 houses damaged up to 50 per cent and public buildings damaged up to 70 per cent were roofed.

As the town is continually growing (1945—about 30 thousand inhabitants, 1946—about 130 thousand and 1947—over 250 thousand) and its area and investments are not proportionate neither to the number of inhabitants nor to the existing housing capacity, and the destructions are moreover out of proportion to any of the named factors, planning must be preceded by a careful study of the changing conditions and ought not be fixed too soon. Any petrification of the plan in too hastily formulated concepts would lead to mistakes irreparable in the future.

Reconstruction must be based therefore on some broad and generally valid concepts adapted to the real character and present trends of the developing city, controlling the diverse ways of development rather than adjusting them forcibly to some preconceived plan.

It follows that reconstruction in the first phase has to be paralleled by planning, instead of being an effect of planning.

Accordingly after the first action restricted to the protection of still utilizable buildings, came the phase of providing the most urgent needs of the population: housing, workshops (in the widest sense), schools, communication, the care of health and sanitation etc.

Housing remaining constantly the main problem, the problems of schools and hospitals came to the fore in 1946. The hospital problem being mastered in the same year, schools remained the chief care of planning for 1947.

The following results in the diverse sectors of reconstructive activities have been already achieved:

In the sector of housing and buildings—over 160 thousand dwelling rooms have been completed; 19 administrative buildings of a cubature of 420 thousand cubic metres, 22 hospitals of a cubature of 215 thousand cub. m. and 35 schools of 780 thousand

cub. m. have been rebuilt. 22 buildings of historical or architectural value have been protected against further decay.

In the sector of works of public utility the sewer system damaged at 700 points has been repaired in 60 per cent, the public water-supply system has been made utilizable in 70 per cent, over 100 km of bus and tramcar lines have been restored for traffic; 160 tramcars repaired.

Burnt out houses have been broken down (about 100 thousand cub. m.) as a safety measure and their debris cleared. 550 thousand cubic metres of debris and dirt have been collected and carried away.

Some most important industrial establishments have been reactivated e. g. the State Railway Carriage Factory, the Water-meter factory, the factory of Artificial Silk.

It is evidently impossible to restore in the next future the work of many generations and the achievements of hundreds of years which have been destroyed in Wrocław. However, it must be born in mind that the building policy of the last century was often deficient and is responsible of many gross errors, being guided by private rather than common interests and so for the next future, besides saving what is worth saving, we must when replanning the town prevent the repetition of errors and must try to remove the effects of former errors; taking advantage of the opportunity created by the very extent of the destruction we must endeavour to rebuild a new city which, according to our present-day notions, would offer to its citizens fully satisfactory conditions of life.

The Restoration of the architectural and historical monuments of Wrocław.

The historical monuments of Wrocław have suffered a terrific war devastation. The accumulation of valuable buildings in the centre of the city as well as the visibility of the many church-towers contributed greatly to the extent of the damages. Out of the numerous churches not a single one remained untouched by war effects. Damage has been done not only by bombardment but also by explosions of ammunition stored inside many historically valuable buildings, which shattered the walls and caused conflagration of the trusses as well as a complete ruin of the interiors.

For Polish Art-History these losses are particularly deplorable as religious architectural monuments in Wrocław were in style and history closely akin to those found in the central parts of Poland.

A considerable number of Wrocław's churches dates as far back as the reign of the Silesian Piasts a Polish dynasty which was very active here. They were built at the end of the XIIIth, during the XIVth and at the beginning of the XVth century. The outstanding of those churches are:

The church of St. Idzi on the Tumski Ostrów.

The Cathedral, which in its present shape is the fourth edifice built on the same site. An explosion of ammunition tore its roof away and damaged completely its interior, but by a happy chance the bared walls and the towers with their spires blown away have revealed the Gothic construction of the church, which shows its light, though monumental and even severe outline.

The church of the Holy Virgin on the Piaski, bequeathed by the family of Piotr Włast. Peter Dunin Włast was a prominent personage of the Piast period, a mediaeval patron of arts and promoter of architecture. He left in Wrocław and in its neighbourhood many traces of his ardent energy.

St. Magdalens Church was particularly severely damaged. A mine explosion split one of its towers from top to bottom the remnants jutting out pathetically and gloomily over the ruins.

St. Vincents Church is almost completely destroyed.

The church of the Holy Cross on the Ostrów Tumski. Its slim silhouette is a characteristic motif of the panorama of the town.

The two small churches: of St. Martins from the XIIIth cent. and St. Peter and Pauls from the XIVth century.

St. Anns Hospital — a former church-yard chapel.

The Bernardine Church in Gothic style with later baroque additions.

St. Adalberts Church — monument of Dominican art from the XIVth century. Churches of the same type are found in whole southern Poland.

Corpus Christi Church is an ancient monastic church of the Order of St. John. Its harmonious, though compact silhouette dates back to the XIV—XV century.

The church of St. Stanislas' and Dorothis.

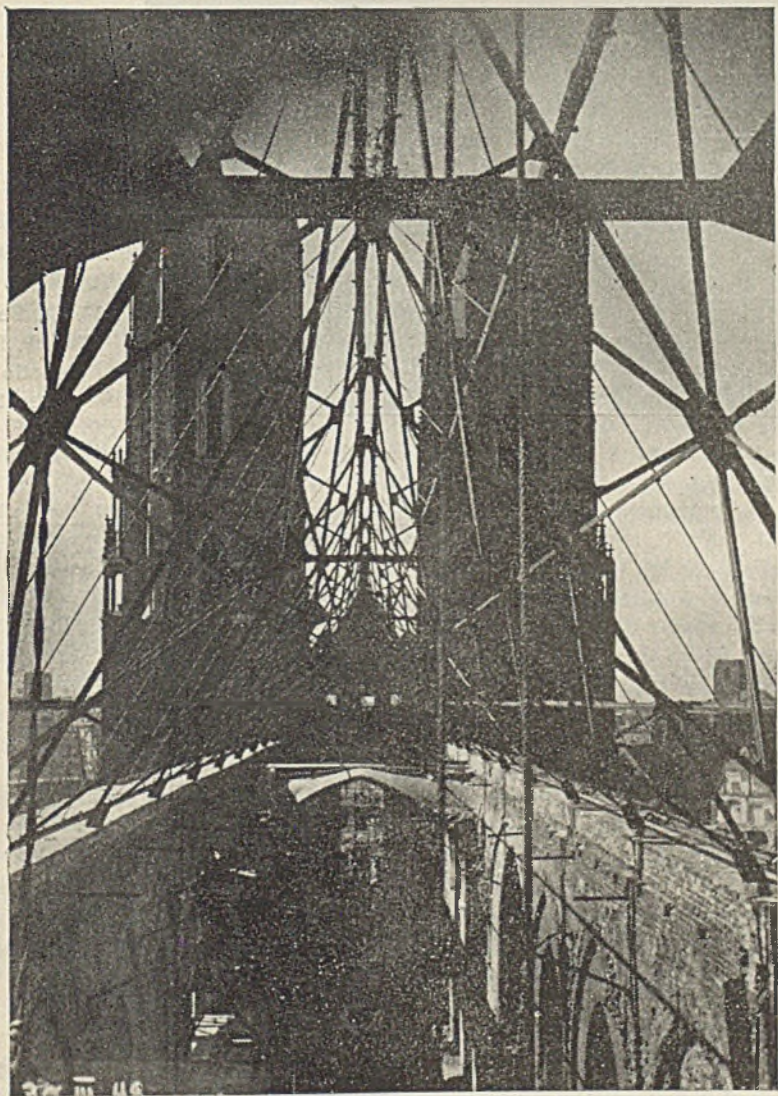
St. Lazarus Church from the XIVth century.

St. Elisabeths Church distinguished by a beautiful tower and a bold contour.

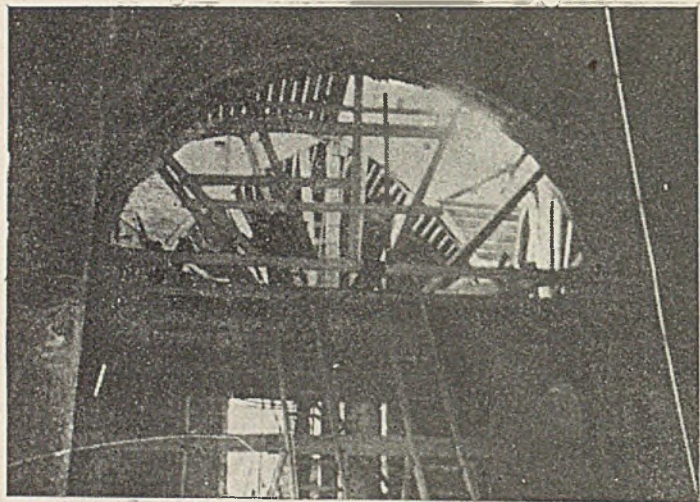
Among secular buildings mention must be made of the University, parts of which are of the XVIIIth century, the present Ossolineum (formerly Mathias College) also from the XVIIIth century, and the City Hall. Moreover some hundred of old houses with richly adorned, narrow fronts reveal in spite of their devastation a uniform urbanistic character.

The restoration of the historical monuments is in its first stage as yet — that of conservation. The architect is faced by no light a task, made still heavier by a normal post-war deficiency of building materials, the scarcity of available funds and the large area of the town. Never the less quite satisfactory results have been achieved. The majority of the buildings in question have been roofed, their walls reinforced, their vaults rebuilt and windows glazed.

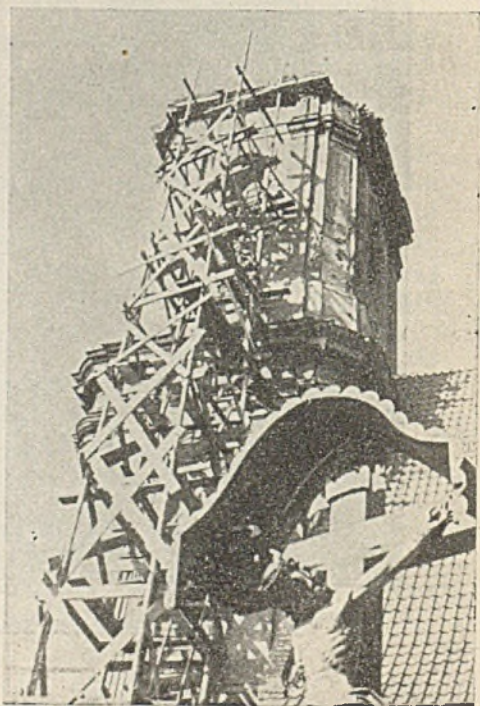
The next stage of our activities will be devoted to restoration from a historical and artistic point of view.



36. Wroclaw Cathedral. Steel rafters over the nave.



37. St. Barbara's Church, Reconstruction of vaults.



38. St. Maurice's Church.

The Local Self-Government of Wrocław.

When taking over Wrocław in 1945 the Polish municipal authorities were faced by a very difficult, though at the same time not ungrateful, piece of work. They were taking over the remnants of a town — roughly one third of its former buildings and one fourth of its former inhabitants, who moreover were quite an unstable population and, as an aftermath of the war, continually on the move. The economic life of the town had to be raised labouriously from the ruins. Big industry as well as the smaller local concerns and trade was completely broken down. Communal institutions were utterly ruined. The town had practically no organised economic life; there was no commerce, no ordered supply of food from the country. Everything had to be started anew.

The available means were very restricted if one considers that the budget of municipal expenditures totalled 118 millions zł. in 1946, whereas in 1948 it reached the sum of 1,256 millions zł. to which must be added the budget of municipal services figuring out at 2,912,7 millions zł. in 1948, so that the sum total of municipal expenditures was really 4,168,7 millions zł. in 1948, i. e. 16,675 zł. per head, or 66,600 zł per family of four. Considering the enormous financial needs of the town in all branches of its activities the above sum is not too high, but it is sufficient to assure a normal standard of life to the inhabitants.

Wrocław covers an area of 17,509 hectares (Warsaw 12,500 ha, Poznań 7,700 ha, Cracow 4,800 ha), the length of its streets totals 660 Km, it has 55 squares and 4 big parks.

Obviously the restarting of the means of communication was the first problem to be tackled. Fortunately the road-surface of Wrocław's streets was in rather a good condition and the twenty-odd bridges were practically undamaged except of a few which are repaired now or under repair. The communal communication is served by tramcar and

bus lines. In 1948 — 14 tramcar lines were running on 120 Km of tram rails. In 1947 — 72,447,019 passengers were transported by tramcars which covered a total distance of 8,623,683 Km. Buses transported 1,320,198 passengers covering in total 363,430 Km. The revenue of the transports is rather low averaging 5 millions zł per a.; this is due to social considerations which hold the tram and bus tarif at a very low level and make the use cheap monthly tickets available to every working citizen.

The supply of energy is the second major problem of Wrocław. A key position is held here by the Municipal Electric Works. The Works consist of a relatively powerful steam-driven plant and of a small water-driven one. In 1947 the total output was 112,941,000 kilowatt hours. For 1948 a total output of 140,000,000 kilowatt hours is planned, namely 120,000,000 kw.h generated by the heat-power plant and 20,000,000 kw.h by the water power plant. Of all the municipal undertakings the Electric Works boast of the biggest turnover.

The third vital problem of Wrocław's Municipality was the restoration and reactivation of the water main and sewers. This service is most important for health and hygiene of the inhabitants of a big town. The water collecting system of Wrocław is highly complicated owing to the fact that collecting and filtering of the river water had to be abandoned because of the pollution of the Oder by industrial plants situated upstream, and a system of collecting water by means of wells had to be adopted. There are 430 wells in total. Water supplied by them is purified and gathered in underground reservoirs of 22 thousand cubic metres capacity; from there it is pumped to the town mains and to a compensating lower-reservoir of 4 thousand c. m. capacity. The maximum efficiency of the collecting system is reached with 110,000 c. m. per 24 hours, but effects of war damage make only some 40,000 c. m. utilisable. 485 Km of water pipe-lines have been reconstructed out of the former 813 Km, mostly destroyed by the war. The pipe system supplies the whole town with its far scattered suburbs. The water consumption in 1947 reached 9,079,079 c. m. — The net of sewers is very big its total length being 635 Km (compared with Warsaw's 357 Km) and it has been reconstruc-

ted in its major part. The sewage is not emptied into the Oder but conveyed to 8 sewage-farms exploited by the municipality.

Public health service is not neglected by the Local Government Board. There are 3 municipal hospitals with 860 beds, 6 health centres, 1 first aid station, 1 disinfecting station, sport grounds, parks and gardens with appurtenant hot-houses. The town is subsidizing moreover hospitals not under municipal control. The expenditure for all the above ends made up 14.74 per cent of the 1948 budget.

Expenditure for social welfare forms 6.93 per cent of the total outlay in 1948. The amount is made up of the cost of maintenance of following municipal institutions: 11 asylums for destitute persons (7 more are in preparation), 3 old-age shelters, 1 orphanage, 2 motherhood houses (one more in organisation), 2 crèches (4 more in preparation), 1 night-shelter, 1 asylum for cripples and an asylum for dumb and deafs in organisation. The Local Self-Government Board grants moreover individual subsidies and provides subventions to other social welfare institutions.

Education figures with 6.21 per cent of the total expenditure in the ordinary budget for 1948. The town maintains 43 primary schools and 9 kindergartens. Two further primary schools and 6 kindergartens are planned. The Local Board is subsidizing other schools and educational institutions for children. 36 scholarships are awarded to high-school students.

2.6 per cent of the 1948 ordinary budget are set apart for art and cultural activities. Theatres and musical schools, museums, libraries and archives are subsidized, subventions are granted to youth organisations and for editing of culturally important publications, for the erection of monuments and for promoting of tourism. The funds devoted to these purposes are rather small, but considering the huge economic burdens of the town they are highly relevant to the social importance of municipal activities.

In this short and uncomplete review of the activities of Wrocław's Local Self-Government due stress was laid upon the industrial and commercial undertakings of the

Municipality. In total there are 18 such undertakings the majority of which have the character of social services. Their financial development and the increase of their social and economic importance is under close observation which reveals a steady progress, so much so that their revenues play an ever increasing part in the general income of the town. The income is based on revenue-taxes imposed by the Local Self-Government and on subsidies and grants of the State, for Wrocław is one of the many points in the plan of reconstruction of our country. However the reactivation of the towns economy will doubtlessly increase its proper revenues and thus allow the lowering of State subsidies. Moreover the debt figures of the town being normal prospects of a sound credit assistance are open.

In the restricted space available it was possible to give no more than a short enumeration of the activities of the Local Self-Government of Wrocław, but we hope that all the figures adduced point convincingly to the fact that:

1) All branches of municipal activities have been mastered by the Local Self-Government administration and show a progress proportionate to the short period of 3 years of reconstruction.

2) The entire efforts of Wrocław's Municipality are directed towards an energetic reconstruction and dynamic development of the town.

PROFESSOR STANISŁAW KULCZYŃSKI, Ph. D.
Rector of the University and Technical High School
in Wrocław

The University and Technical High School in Wrocław.

A tradition of long years of strife for Polish thought and science in Silesia preceded the founding of a Polish University in Wrocław in 1945.

The first foundation act of the University of Wrocław, unfortunately never realized, was conceived by King Władysław Jagiełłończyk in 1505. The establishment of the University in 1811 was the starting point of a development within this institution of Polish intellectual life which lasted until the period of Bismarck's Government. Among the undergraduates the Polish Students Circles were active besides the German ones, e. g. "Polonia" and later the "Slavonic Literary Circle". Among the lecturers were Poles too, as for instance Wojciech Cybulski, professor of Slavonic Philology, and his successor Władysław Nehring. A few dozens Poles of renown studied and obtained their degrees at the University of Wrocław.

The foundation of the Polish University and Technical High School in Wrocław after the second World War was a difficult task. After the capitulation of Wrocław on 7th May 1945 the town was totally derelict. 68 per cent of buildings were irretrievably destroyed, 32 per cent were found in a state of lamentable devastation. The premises of the University and Technical High School suffered a similar damage. The main building of the University, site of the Law Faculty, had been bombed. From the buildings of the Faculty of Arts one large and one small building only were saved. The University Library had burned down. The Faculty of Science lost all its valuable institutes except one part of the Zoological Museum and part of the Botanical Institute. The Medicine Faculty lost irrevocably nearly a half of its buildings for clinical and theoretical studies. The buildings of the Faculty of Agriculture and of the Technical High School were most seriously damaged. Scientific equipment which has been evacuated into the country, before

the siege began, was lost for the University, whereas a part of the evacuated library has been recovered. A certain amount of the library and apparatus was saved from the debris as well. In the summer and autumn 1945 25 buildings were roofed, 20.000 m² of window panes were put in, the tremendous amount of debris was removed, many of inside walls were rebuilt, cavities made by bombing and shells were filled, a great number of gates, doors, and windows were repaired, mains were made fit to be used, and machinery was put into operation again.

In those buildings Institutes of Medicine, Arts, Agriculture Faculties and of the Technical High School were lodged. The reduced number of the University buildings was augmented by the municipal authorities giving up some of their premises to the University. In these buildings the University Library, the Science and Law Faculties, a part of the Faculty of Arts and the Veterinary Faculty were put up. Altogether 11 faculties of the University and Technical High School were organised and lodged.

The University and Technical High School were united into one organisation. This was motivated by practical considerations — both schools having to support each other —, as well as by the idea of bringing technics closer to theory, which seems imperative to day.

The renewed institutes gave shelter to the remnants of scientific collections enlarged with Polish libraries and equipment brought here from the central provinces of our devastated country. By bringing in the National Ossoliński Institution's Library from Lwów to Wrocław a basis for research work was founded especially for the Faculty of Arts.

On 14th November 1945 the lectures and classes started. The first academic year began with 84 professors, 315 adjunct lecturers and assistants and 3.500 students attending. Besides the regular courses of study a so-called Preparatory Course was organised for the benefit of the youth backward in their studies in consequence of the war. 200 students attended it. The students got their houses and canteens.

The second academic year brought together 7.000 undergraduates and 606 students of the Preparatory Course. The University staff reached 2/3 of



39. University main-building.
War damage.



40. The same building after reconstruction.



41. A chemistry lab. Students at work.



42. Technical High-School
in Wroclaw.

the number scheduled in the plans. Some of the Faculties put into operation all their courses. The following separate courses of study were organised within the framework of the University curriculum: a Department of Town and Country Planning, a Physical Training Department and Pedagogical Institute. Public University and Technical School lectures were organised for the benefit of provincial centres.

In the third year of the activity of the University and the Technical High School the number of students in both of these institutions exceeded 9.000. Symptoms of overcrowding appeared which can be removed only by a systematic and planned rebuilding of the institutes and laboratories of the University and of the Technical High School. That has already begun with the renewing of the main building of the University and the destroyed Clinic premises.

In the course of the 1947 the University Printing Office was set going publishing the works of more than a dozen scientific circles now active in Wrocław, with the Wrocław Scientific Society as the leading institution.

By far the majority of the teaching staff of both the University and Technical High School come from Lwów and partially from Vilna. Thus experienced scientists and pedagogues constitute the nucleus of scientific workers, a great advantage for the development of the Schools. Much has already been achieved by research work in mathematics, geography, medicine, classic and Polish philology in barely two years activity in Wrocław.

The scientific work of the University and Technical High School is linked together with general social and economic problems of the State. This gives vitality to the work of both High Schools which are thus included into the general — extremely rapid — process of the economic and cultural rehabilitation of the Recovered Territories.

the number scheduled in the plans. Some of the faculties put into operation all their courses. The network of courses of study were organized within the framework of the University curriculum: a Department of Law and County Planning, a Department of Education and Pedagogical and Technical

Education in Wrocław.

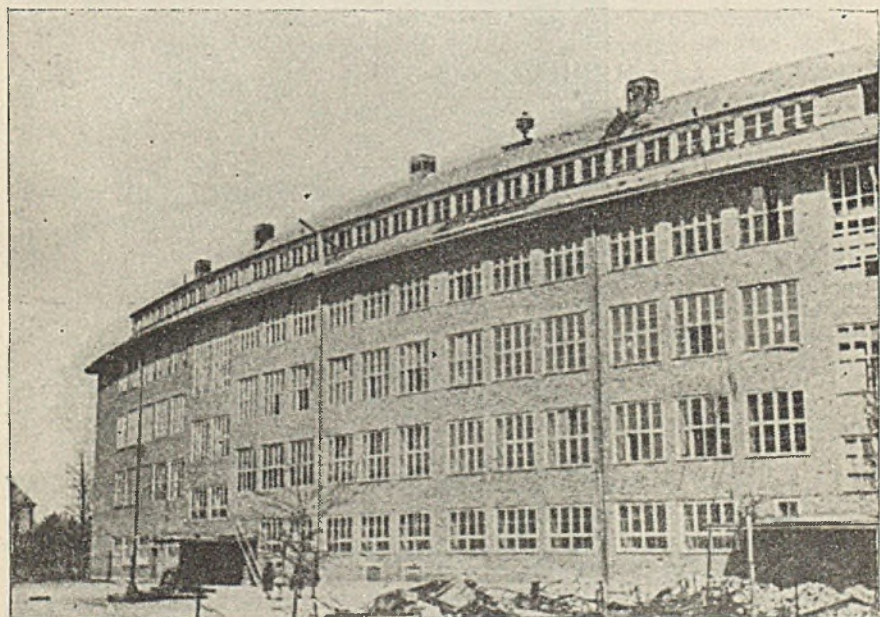
The Polish education authorities set about organizing public instruction in September 1945. They had, at the outset, to cope with enormous difficulties of a material character, such as the want of rooms fit to be used by teachers and pupils, want of furniture and equipment etc. There were, however, also difficulties of a didactic character to be surmounted as well. The youth were most unequally prepared for the recommencement of education, there had been much neglect in the training of their minds etc. In the course of one year, one difficulty after the other was coming up and had to be overcome, this being a work that would, in normal circumstances take a number of years to be done. But the matter was serious and important enough to make those responsible for it realize that there was not a moment to be wasted in waiting for more opportune times. Large numbers of young people were flowing in clamouring for schools and anxious to be taught. At a few days notice instruction had to be started if even in a building with no more than an excuse of a roof and fragments of panes in the windows. No effort could be spared to renew what little was capable of being renewed at all, and that with very modest means. But, considering the brief space of time allowed, the effort was crowned with a success that could scarcely have been anticipated.

Excluding institutes for University Education, here are some points and figures to illustrate the effects. They are a comparison of the state in the second half of 1945 and that in June 1948.

Elementary Schools. In September 1945, in rooms hurriedly made fit to be used, work began in 8 schools with 35 teachers and 428 children. In October, 1947 we have 38 schools, 523 teachers and 15,565 pupils, and at present 43 schools. That means that the number of those receiving public instruction has multiplied no less than 35 times. Only 5 per cent of the chil-



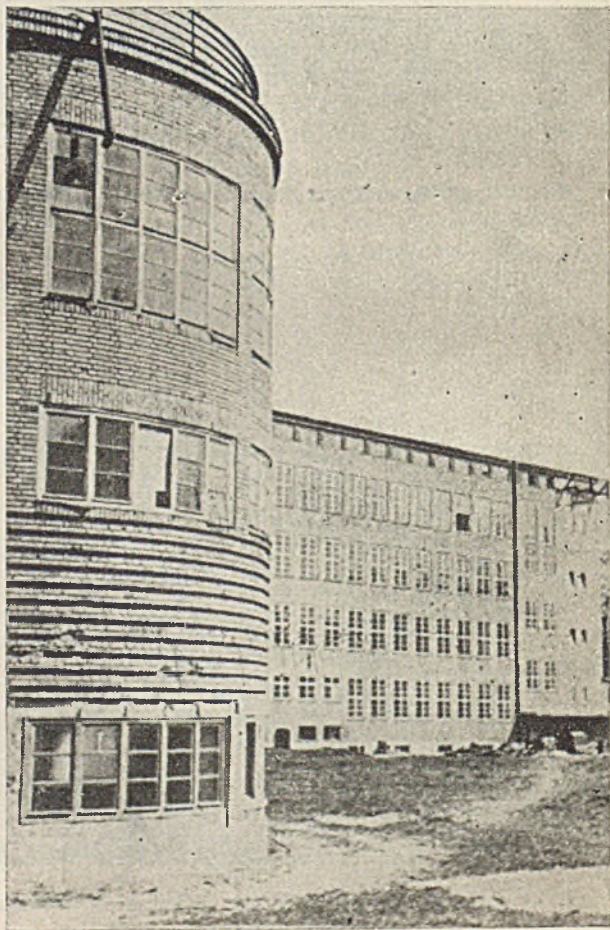
43. Secondary professional school of electro-technics.



44. Primary school in Sepolno—a Wrocław suburb.



45. Manual Training Class
in a secondary professional
school.



46. Gymnasium (second. school) in the
Parkowa street in
Wrocław.

dren under compulsion have not been able to find their way to schools.

Kindergartens. Kindergartens form a preliminary to Elementary School Education. Their number has, from two, gone up to thirty, and the number of children in them has increased from 60 to 1854 (18 times).

General-Education Secondary Schools (the lower ones are called gymnasiums, the upper lyceums). There are 4 institutions of this type in Wrocław now. Three of them are state-owned, one is private. The number of pupils in them is just over 2000. In the first school-year, 1945/46, only one general-education gymnasium and liceum was at work. It was coeducational and comprised 18 classes holding one thousand pupils. In spite of the fact that the first two classes have, in consequence of the School Reform, been included in the Elementary and lyceums the number of pupils in lyceums and gymnasiums has doubled.

The national economy having made a shift from an agricultural basis to an industrial one, the popularity of professional studies in special schools has grown considerably. There are now 28 institutions of this type in existence. This number includes 3 schools under the management of the Ministry of Industry within the framework of the Professional Education Centre of the State Railway Carriage Factory. The 28 institutions take care of 6181 young people. This compares favourably with only 3 schools for professional education, and 320 pupils in them, in 1945. According to the specific curriculum these schools are divided into such type as: Textile Industry, Tailoring, Weaving, Hosiery, Commerce, Cooperative, Architecture, Technics, Metal Industry, Electricity, Mensuration, Artistic Handicraft, Dentistry, Fresh-Water Navigation etc. The youth's interest for professional education grows proportionally with the development of these schools in our town. Out of every 4 secondary school pupils, 3 frequent special professional schools, which is considered very advantageous.

Wrocław has only one pedagogic college, the Pedagogic Lyceum training future teachers. Connected with it is a two-year preparatory course, an elementary pedagogic course, a seminary for kindergarten governesses, a two-years lyceum for adults and a higher training

course. There are at present 841 candidates being educated in the institute, the majority being women (the relation according to sex is 2,4:1). In its early days (in 1945) the institute included only one class preparatory to the lyceum, 2 elementary classes, and one general preparatory course with not more than 91 students altogether.

Institutes for the Education of Adults. These institutes give a chance of acquiring elementary or secondary education to all those, who being out of school age, want to make up for the instruction they have missed for some reason or other. In 1945 one such general education gymnasium and lyceum was set up and organized in such a way that it might give instruction at a speedier rate, than usual. The number of students was inconsiderable at the outset. At present, there are: 1) 3 three-year elementary schools with 600 students, 2) 10 continuation courses, 3) a Re-Polonisation course for autochthons and reemigrants 4) one state-owned and two private general education secondary schools (1900 students), 5) the Voivodship Department of the University Extension, 6) the so-called Public University for diverse subjects 7) Social Welfare School, conducted by the University Extension authorities. In all these institutions 4000 men and women are being educated.

Polish Books, scientific as well as semi-scientific or fiction, were a rarity here at the outset. Hardly any schooling was conceivable without books. But at present all demands are being met with. The number of books in public libraries and circulating libraries proves it. They own (to the exclusion of University and private libraries) 73500 literary works between them. Out of this number 40000 goes to circulating libraries and 20000 to school libraries. Although it is impossible to infer the number of readers from these figures or to imagine how quick the circulation is, it may well be surmised that the want for books has been supplied in a considerable degree.

The above figures cannot fail to show that great tribute has to be paid to the tremendous and in every respect successful effort done in the field of Education in Wrocław.

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Science and Art in Wrocław 1945—1948.

The extent of Wrocław's destruction can be easily realised and the strenuous task of rebuilding its ruined factories, houses and communication lines is well known. But those whose task it was to rebuild the cultural life of Lower Silesia were faced with double difficulties, for the economic and administrative activities had to be resumed first and specialists of all branches had to settle here before any collecting of the remnants of libraries and museums became possible and theatres, reading rooms and workers' clubs could be reopened. In spite of these enormous difficulties the cultural life of Wrocław has been reactivated in an amazingly short time. The organizers of the University headed by the Rector entered the town the next day after the surrender of the besieged Germans. Four weeks later music lovers were able to produce the first public philharmonic concert. Wrocław with its 12 thousand students and 12 periodicals which publish the results of recent scientific research became a big scientific centre. It works in close contact with the rest of Poland — conferences and congresses have been organized here bringing together scientists of all branches from the whole country (e. g. congresses of mathematicians, geographers, librarians and historians). On the other hand this centre cooperates with the rest of Lower Silesia conducting geological, linguistic and sociological research work in the entire territory of the province and the Technical High-School of Wrocław prepares plans of production for the industry of Lower Silesia. The province reciprocally helps its scientific centre by bestowing libraries to the scientific institutes and presenting building materials for the restoration of the premises of the University.

Art holds not as important a place in Wrocław as science. Nevertheless though no great artistic centre has been created here all artistic activities theatres, the opera, concerts and lectures find an enthusiastic reception and attract huge crowds from all strata of the towns population. The large audiences drawn by the theatres are as characteristic for Wrocław's cultural life as the number of scientific periodicals published here and the astonishingly early dates at which cultural institutions have been founded in that burned-out town.

The founding of the University and Technical High-School which are Wrocław's pride has been followed in 1947 by the founding of the High School of Commerce. It started with 1850 students to whom reconstructed lecture rooms, student homes and a canteen have been provided. The curriculum of the school aims at educating specialists for the administrative management of business and cooperative enterprises and for the organization of land-, water- and air-transportation. These aims have been dictated by the actually most urgent needs of the province of Lower Silesia as well as of all Poland. One more high-school must not be omitted: the State High School of Plastic Arts which has been founded in 1946 with 84 students attending. Its artistic production goes to fulfill the needs of the industry of Silesia by providing patterns for ceramic, cut-crystal and metal-decoration industries of the province.

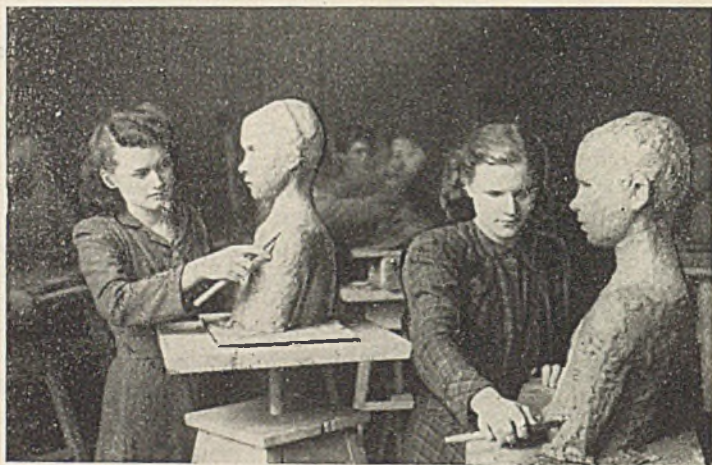
Scientific societies have been founded almost apace with the academic schools. Whereas the latter have to educate students and young scientists (their number being now thrice as high as in German times!), the former have to work for the advancement of science promoting knowledge and publishing new results of scientific research. The foremost place is due to the Wrocławskie Towarzystwo Naukowe (Wrocław Society of Science) founded on 17th March 1946. It comprises five sections viz. of philology, of history and philosophy, of social science, of mathematics, of natural sciences, and of medicine. Actually it numbers 76 members and in 60 sessions 67 scientific papers have been read — 37 of these have appeared in print (a total of 3200 pages). The Society



47. Wrocław Opera House after reconstruction.



48. The famous collections of the „Ossolineum” from Lwów have found shelter in the buildings of the former St. Mathias’ gymnasium.



49. Students of the Fine Arts Academy at work.



50. The fourth theatre of Wrocław was raised from ruins and dedicated to the play-wright Gabriela Zapolska.

keeps up close relations with other learned societies at home and recently with the University of Prague. The Archaeological Society started its activities as early as November 1945, and in January 1946 a branch of the Polish Geographical Society was established in Wrocław, where it publishes now the „Czasopismo Geograficzne“ (a geographical magazine). Soon afterwards the following scientific associations have been founded: a branch of the „Towarzystwo Literackie im. Mickiewicza“ (Mickiewicz Literary Society) publishing the „Pamiętnik Literacki“ (Literary Memoirs), the most important of Poland's historical and literary quarterlies; the „Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Literatury i Języka“ (Society of Friends of Literature and Language) with the voluminous quarterly „Zeszyty Wrocławskie“ (Wrocław Notebook); the „Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Historii“ (Society of Friends of History) publishing an important quarterly under the title „Sobótka“; a branch of the „Polskie Tow. Przyrodników im. Kopernika“ (Copernicus Society of Polish Naturalists), a branch of the Polish Philological Society publishing „Eos“ a periodical of international fame; a branch of the Polish Mathematical Society and a branch of the Polish Medical Society. The former publishes a most important mathematical periodical entitled „Colloquia Mathematica“.

For speeding up and promoting researches bearing upon Silesia the Silesian Institute, founded in Katowice in 1934, opened a branch in Wrocław on the 1 September 1945. The branch organized very soon a network of correspondents in the whole province, took over a Silesian scientific library in Cieplice n. Jelenia Góra and started research work everywhere in Lower Silesia. In Wrocław it has several sections viz. a sociological section investigating the sociology of the settlers in town and rural districts, a geographical section which prepares a geographical dictionary of Silesia, a prehistorical section which conducted excavations on the Cathedral Isle in Wrocław, further sections are devoted to history, natural history and ethnology. The Silesian Institute organized several conferences which proved decisive in some very important cultural developments in Lower Silesia.

Up to recent pre-war times Polish was printed in Wrocław and some printing offices of that town were indeed specialized in Polish publications during the entire XIX c. Now printing in Polish revived and developed along with the reborn scientific life of the town. The ruined printing offices have been reconstructed very quickly. During the first 18 months after the end of hostilities 1,922,000 books have left the press here, some published in editions of over 7,000 copies. Half of them were fiction destined for the home market of whole Poland. Thus Wrocław was able to supply literature and to refill the ruined libraries of the country if not with new literary works so at least with reprints of the works of our best authors. Besides many lending libraries and public reading-rooms there are in Wrocław three major scientific libraries. The most ancient of these is the Library of the Chapter (Archidiecoesan Library) rich in MSS's and old prints (about 100 thousand items) and comprising an important Silesian collection moreover. The University Library has been created out of the remnants of the former municipal library and of diverse libraries in the province — it has many old prints and is continuously expanding owing to new acquisitions of books from the whole country. The „Ossolineum“, a library of outstanding value has been transferred from Lwów, its former seat, to Wrocław. Its reading room numbers some 50 thousand volumes of newer Polish publications, 100 thousand volumes of old Polish prints are catalogued and a fine collection MSS's is put into order. A selection of some 100 of most valuable MSS's (of Polish classic writers and poets) formed the subject of an exposition held in autumn 1947 under the title „Polish Literature in Autographs“.

The Wrocław branch of the Union of Polish Writers holds each second Monday a public meeting in which writers of the whole country have the opportunity to present their latest works to the public. The branch though not very numerous has already attracted some remarkable talents from among the youth of the town. Another success of the branch was the organization of a General Meeting of the Union in November 1947 in

Wrocław. The literary circles of Jelenia Góra and Wałbrzych are very successful too.

The Society of Friends of Literature and Language previously mentioned holds each Thursday since 1946 meetings to which many personalities of the literary or scientific world come to lecture from all Poland.

A great advancement in spreading culture and arts was the recent reopening of the Wrocław broadcasting station. The station is very powerful and broadcasts daily in the Polish South-Programme together with the stations of Cracow and Katowice. The three dailies of Wrocław („Słowo Polskie“, „Wrocław. Kurier Ilustrowany“, „Trybuna Dolnośląska“.) circulate in rather large editions (350 thousand copies in total). All three papers besides topical news bring also valuable articles dealing with cultural subjects and publish each Sunday a popular literary appendix. The Trybuna Dolnośląska besides brings once weekly an appendix devoted to the popularization of science under the title “On the Path of Knowledge”. A finely illustrated monthly the “Śląsk”, a magazine devoted to historical, literary as well as topical subjects is published in Jelenia Góra. In the same town a very interesting scientific monthly the “Nauka i Sztuka” (Science and Art) is published to which many scientists of whole Poland are contributing.

The first theatre in Lower Silesia opened its season on the 1st October 1946 in Jelenia Góra with Beaumarchais' „Barber of Seville“, playing later Fredro, Dickens, Molière and Zapolska. The theatre moved to Wrocław a year later. Now there are in Wrocław two audience-halls and a third big theatre is under construction which will be named after the famous Polish female playwright Gabrielle Zapolska.

The hall of the present Lower Silesian Theatre in Wrocław was opened for the first time to the public in June 1945 for symphonic programmes and later for irregularly played operas. Now the Opera and Symphonic Companies are state-owned and perform regularly. The Opera produces mostly a classic repertoire in modernly staged versions with soloists of renown appearing in guest-rôles. The Philharmonic Company has also occa-

sionally guest-soloists or conductors, even from abroad. Musicians have at their disposal in Wrocław the largest electric organ in Europe, another huge organ in St. Dorotheys church and a fine organ in the broadcasting studio. A socially very important novelty was the creation of the Workers Opera, where soloists, choirs and the orchestra are composed entirely of amateurs from amid the working classes. Its educational value proved to be excellent and moreover it helps in discovering new talents.

Painters and sculptors are less active in Wrocław, nevertheless two major exhibitions and some prize-winning contests for artists were held here. Excursions for artists to Lower Silesia have been organized and Wrocław became a centre for those interested in Silesian landscape and architecture promoting in this way the knowledge of the artistic values of the Regained Territories.

This review of the 3 years of Wrocław's cultural life during a most strenuous period of reconstruction permits to draw some relevant conclusions. It appears clearly that Polish scientists in spite of the systematic efforts of the Germans to annihilate them had still enough vitality to create an important scientific centre out of practically a vacuum, furnishing it with laboratories, libraries etc. and to display a scientific activity on an even scale with the rest of the civilized world. Secondly it is patent that the recent social reforms changed the economic situation to a degree which made higher education available to broad masses of the youth of the country. Lastly the crowded audiences in theatres, concerts and at popular lectures prove that the population of the town, a mass of new settlers still undergoing a process of intergration, has nevertheless already a cultural individuality of its own and is able to appreciate and to cherish the arts and sciences.



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