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DEVELOPMENTS IN POLISH PUBLIC HEALTH AND INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE

HEALTH SERVICE ORGANIZATION CHANGED -- Poznan, Glos Wielkopolski, 8 Oct 50

Recently, two laws were passed which radically changed the present health service organization. One law pertains to public health institutions and to planned economy in health service. The other law, dated 22 July 1950, covers the establishment of the Institute of Occupational Medicine. As a result of this latter law, the present Social Security Agencies will be replaced by the Institute of Occupational Medicine and the Institute for Social Security.

The Institute for Social Security will now limit its functions exclusively to matters dealing with social security. It will make cash payments, such as allowances, annuities, and family relief, due to sickness, accidents, and disabilities. It will also pro-rate and collect insurance payments. The Institute of Occupational Medicine will have jurisdiction over all medical agencies heretofore under the Social Security Agencies and industrial medicine heretofore under various central industrial authorities. All the above public health services will be under the Ministry of Health.

The gradual transfer of doctors from private practice to public health centers will contribute to the fusion of preventive medicine with medical treatments.

Regional subdivisions of the Institute of Occupational Medicine will conform to the new administrative division of the country. Health problems will thus be entrusted directly to people's councils within the area.

Authorized agents of the Ministry of Health have been appointed for all the wojewodztwo and powiats of Poland to work with the Commission of Four to act on matters of the Institute of Occupational Medicine. The commission is composed of the official doctor, representatives of wojewodztwo or trade union councils, and representatives of wojewodztwo or powiat people's councils. Henceforth, the people's councils will have full supervision over the Institute of Occupational Medicine.

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SLASK MEDICAL ACADEMY TO EXPAND -- Katowice, Dziennik Zachodni, 9 Oct 50

The Ludwik Warynski Slask Academy of Medicine in Rokitnica now in its third academic year, will be fully developed by 1955, according to Dr. Nowakowski, dean of the academy. It is one of the ten medical academies which are to reinforce the depleted ranks of physicians and stomatologists.

In 1948, total registration was 225. In 1949, there were 378 new students, and in 1950, 500 new students. At present, there are 679 students in the Department of Medicine and 424 in the Department of Stomatology. The first class of stomatologists will graduate in 1952, and the first class of physicians in 1953.

By 1955, the academy will accommodate 1,500 students in the Department of Medicine and 800 in the Department of Stomatology. In 1950, the registration amounted to 500, or 222 percent of the 1948 registration; the expected registration of 1,500 in 1955 will be 300 percent of the 1948 registration.

At present, there are 1,083 students in both departments, of whom 62 percent, or 669, come from workers' families and the remainder from the homes of salaried workers. Almost all of the first and second-year students belong to the Association of Polish Students.

Since its organization, the academy has tried to participate in the solution of the health problems of Slask, the most densely populated industrial area, through the hospitals and institutes of the Academy's Institute of Industrial Medicine.

The organization of the Slask Central Institute of Industrial Medicine was started in 1949 with the approval of the Minister of Health. All active laboratories of the academy joined in the work. The clinical department is based on the center for scientific research in industrial diseases organized by Doctor Zahorski. In the near future, this center will be developed into the polyclinic of industrial diseases, including silicosis. The Institute of Industrial Medicine will gather information in medicine and related subjects to improve the health of the Slask industrial population.

The preparatory work of the Medical Science Section of the First Polish Scientific Congress showed that the most important and pressing problem is the training of new scientific personnel. At present, the academy has 10 professors, 5 substitute professors, 4 research directors, 4 lecturers, 17 associates, 101 assistants, and 52 laboratory technicians. There are 31 students among the younger assistants, and 33 students are working as laboratory assistants.

There are social clubs in the various departments to interest the students in scientific work. An increased effort must be made to make scientific study available to greater numbers from the working class.

The academies differs from other institutes of higher learning in that it gives medical care in addition to its work in the teaching and research fields. In the preparation of clinics and research laboratories for use in the third year study in medicine and stomatology, the academy has taken over the Social Insurance Hospital in Zabrze. The Tuberculosis Hospital in Biskupice is being activated, and the Municipal Hospital in Zabrze will also be taken over by the academy. The academy will thus take over the hospital care of the entire population of Zabrze and environs, and through its mobile units will increase its participation in outside work with the close cooperation of the Institute of Industrial Medicine.

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After repairs and other necessary changes are made in the three hospitals mentioned, the number of hospital beds will be increased to 730. There will be 810 beds in new buildings. By 1955, the hospital group of the academy will have more than 1,500 beds. One of the largest stomatology groups in Poland will be activated in Zabrze this year.

Cooperation between hospital units and academic institutes will insure the best medical training. The services of the academy professors as wojewodstwo consultants will improve medical care for the working class of the industrial region.

SEARCH FOR NEW SPRINGS -- Dusseldorf, Slowo Polskie, 3 Sep 50

The Polish Health Spas are at present engaged in searching for new mineral springs, and in the systematic testing of present springs for the purpose of permanently controlling their yield and activity.

Two new springs are now being drilled: the Zuber III in Krynica, and a hot spring in Ciechocinek.

Modern saltworks for the production of iodized salt are being built in Zablocie, Gorny Slask, and in Iwonicz.

The scientific work connected with these springs is being carried out by a special scientific and research institute in Szczawno-Zdroj. The institute organized a group of specialists who completed research this year on the springs in Szczawnica, Iwonicz, Kudowa, and Swieradow. At present research is being conducted on springs in the Sub-Carpathian Mountains, Dolny Slask, and Pomorze Zachodnie.

URGES USE OF PLACENTAL BLOOD FOR TRANSFUSIONS -- Warsaw, Polski Tygodnik Lekarski, 6 Mar 50

Scientific and practical considerations make it imperative to conserve placental blood for use in blood transfusions. Utilization of placental blood would make hospitals, especially provincial hospitals, more self-sufficient, and would permit a more extensive use of blood transfusions.

It is estimated that 60 millimeters of blood are secured from one birth. Based on the figures of the 1949 census of legal births in lying-in homes and hospitals in Poland, about 7,000 liters of placental blood could be secured annually, sufficient for 30,000 transfusions.

This objective would be difficult to achieve in a short time. However, in large hospitals, located conveniently to transportation, 3,500 liters of blood could be secured each year by training the personnel in the taking and preserving of placental blood. This blood would supply about 15,000 transfusions a year, about one fifth of the total demand for blood in surgical cases. -- Ryszard Fidelski

672 REGISTERED BLOOD DONORS IN WARSAW -- Warsaw, Stolica, 11 Jun 50

The Polish Red Cross Donors' Center in Warsaw, headed by Dr Serafin, was opened in 1948. At present it has 672 registered donors, but requires approximately 2,000.

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Blood is collected in glass ampules and treated with a stabilizer which preserves all the properties of the fresh blood for almost 6 weeks. Ampules are stored in refrigerators at 2 to 6 degrees centigrade.

Blood donors must be between 18 and 40 years of age. Each donor is given a Wasserman test, medical examination, and a lung X-ray.

The center on Katowicka Street has eight rooms, but this is insufficient to accommodate donors properly.

ORDER COVERING EXAMINATIONS FOR VENEREAL DISEASES -- Warsaw, Dziennik Ustaw, 31 Jul 50

In an effort to help overcome venereal diseases, the Minister of Health has issued the following order:

1. Pregnant women must undergo two examinations for venereal diseases: one before the 5th month of pregnancy, and the second before the 8th month.

2. The Wojewodztwo People's Council may order the following to undergo examinations for venereal diseases: (a) office employees, laborers, and students in schools; and (b) all persons or certain age groups in locations where the incidence of venereal disease is rising.

3. Examinations of women during pregnancy are to be conducted by health centers or other social health services.

4. The Presidium of the Wojewodztwo People's Council establishes the time and place of the examination of persons named in 2,a, above, in agreement with the management of the concern or school.

Upon ordering an examination of persons named in 2,b, above, the Presidium of the Wojewodztwo People's Council specifies and announces the age of persons to undergo such an examination, areas, and time and place of examinations.

5. A person may be exempted from the examination upon presentation of a doctor's certificate, dated no later than a month before the announced examination, stating that such an examination has already been made.

6. Each person examined will receive a certificate to that effect.

7. The costs connected with the examinations and the issuance of certificates will be borne by the Polish government.

8. The above order becomes effective 31 July 1950.

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