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Contribution of Foreign Professors to the Development of the University Medical Studies in Kaunas During 1922–1940

University of Lithuania (from 1930 Vytautas Magnus University) opened in Kaunas in 1922 was the first national university of Lithuania that had a great impact on the intellectual structure of the society. Although historiography has sufficiently investigated the development of the university and its faculties, there is still a lack of comprehensive research and evaluation of the university scientific staff activities. The purpose of this paper is to review the educational activities of the first foreign professors working in the Faculty of Medicine and to evaluate their influence on the formation of scientific research.

The development of the Faculty of Medicine, in the beginning, was wide and rapid. Due to the lack of staff, it was necessary to invite experienced lecturers from foreign universities. Five foreign professors: H. Boit, J. Dzirne, K. Buynevich, E. Winteler, and E. Landau arrived in Kaunas in 1922–1924 from German, Swiss, Russian universities and created a multicultural atmosphere in the Faculty of Medicine. Besides the scientific and educational work, they had to organize clinical and theoretical departments. Prof. K. Buynevich issued Textbook of Internal Diseases, published 25 academic articles in Lithuanian, eight of his articles appeared in medical publications in Germany and France. The professor studied internal diseases, analyzed cases of simulation. Proceeding with the research he had started in the Russian Empire, he published an original theory on the formation of urine. Prof. Boit published seven academic articles in Lithuanian and German medical publications in three years. The subject of his research was the stirrers of biliary duct infection, he also promoted the surgery methods for treatment of lung tuberculosis and analysed results of prostate operations. Professor E. Landau came to Kaunas with many tools needed for histology studies and continued his research work in the field of neurohistology and histological techniques. Prof. E. Winteler's main research interests were cancer, rheumatism, geographical pathology (cerebral pathology) and cirrhosis of the liver. Most of the foreign professors who have been working in Lithuania for a longer time have formed schools and research fields of their own disciplines.

References:

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