

# THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE POLYTECHNICAL UNIVERSITY AND THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL WORK OF ITS INSTRUCTORS AFTER THE LIBERATION (1945 — 1948)

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More than 17 years have passed since Hungary was liberated from the rule of the German oppressors and their Hungarian retainers. Our country has now entered a historical period when the socialist relations of production have triumphed not only in industry but also in agriculture. The successful fulfillment of our Second Five-Year Plan will consolidate our achievements and lead us to the concluding stage of the construction of socialism.

The historic fact that the Soviet Union vanquished fascism and liberated Hungary from the Hitlerite yoke was a decisive contribution to the achievement of Hungary's splendid results. As a consequence of the liberating struggle of the Soviet Army, the opportunity arose in our country for the proletarian revolution to triumph in the struggle against reaction through a people's democratic process of development, and for a socialist society to be constructed.

One of the most critical periods of the 180 years of higher technical education was the historic situation which arose after the liberation of our country, in the first phase of our people's democratic development, when the reconstruction of the country and the evolution of our new way of life began. The "Palatinate Joseph" University of Technical and Economic Sciences (henceforth: the Polytechnical University) already at this stage played an important role in the reconstruction of the country by continuing the training of engineers, through its scientific research and technical work, and by its direct and indirect help to industry.

## **The economic, political and educational situation at the Polytechnical University after the Liberation**

Budapest was liberated by February, 1945, and the whole country on 4th April. Hungary lay in ruins — the German and Hungarian fascist had despoiled the country. Characteristic of the extent of the economic havoc is the fact that all in all, Hungary's war damages amounted to some 21,900

million gold *pengős*. The losses caused by the War made up 40.1 per cent of the value of the national wealth.

The Budapest Polytechnical University, with its almost 200-year old past, which had trained so many outstanding engineers and scientists of world fame such as Tivadar Puskás, János Irinyi, Ányos Jedlik, Sándor Asbóth, Kálmán Kandó and others, now lay in ruins. The Polytechnical University was then the only university in the country where engineers were trained. The extent of the damage to the buildings of the University was 40 per cent, a large part of the laboratories had been destroyed, the machines and instruments ruined or looted after the siege. The then Rector of the Polytechnical University outlined the situation in the following terms: "In the northern part of the central building . . . the roof crashed down into a hall on to the second floor, in one place in the southern part it crumbled to the ground, while the eastern portion of the ground floor, though its walls still stood, was completely unusable."<sup>1</sup>

What was the educational and political situation of the University after the Liberation?

Before the Liberation, in the autumn, 1944, the third and fourth-year students were transported to Germany to continue their studies. The professors did not agree with the government decree ordering the transportation of the students.

The teaching staff of the University's love of its profession is evidenced by the fact that despite this critical situation no terms were lost. Lectures at the University commenced in April, 1945. The lectures were delivered in badly damaged theatres, and work also began in the laboratories which had suffered tremendous losses. Since there was no glass in the windows and no fuel was available, the University Council decided to bring forward the beginning of the first term in the academic year 1945—46, and also to end it sooner.<sup>2</sup>

It was, moreover, foreseeable that very many students would register for the academic year 1945—46, as the exorbitant tuition fees and the law on the *numerus clausus* had permitted only very few of those aspiring to study, to enter the Polytechnical University. This could particularly be applied to the children of the working classes. At the same time students of the advanced terms were also returned from POW camps and deportation to Germany. The University was in a critical position, and the great question arose of how the veritable army of students who were now streaming back to the University could be accommodated and instructed.

The composition of the students by social origin was still the pre-war one, but the process of democratic development had already brought new categories with it as well. Worker and poor peasant youths appeared at the

<sup>1</sup> From dr. Farkas Heller's report as Rector Magnificus in the academic year 1945—46.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



Polytechnical University. The Free Trade Union of Hungarian Engineers and Technicians asked the Ministry of Education to reserve 50—60 places for young workers, who had through no fault of their own been unable to take matriculation certificates. These young people would have had to pass entrance exams in certain subjects, and could thus have become ordinary students of the University. After the raising of this question much wrangling still took place.

A part of the teaching staff of the Polytechnical University were glad to welcome the young workers from industry, but the Ministerial Order did not permit these students to take entrance exams and as to become ordinary students.

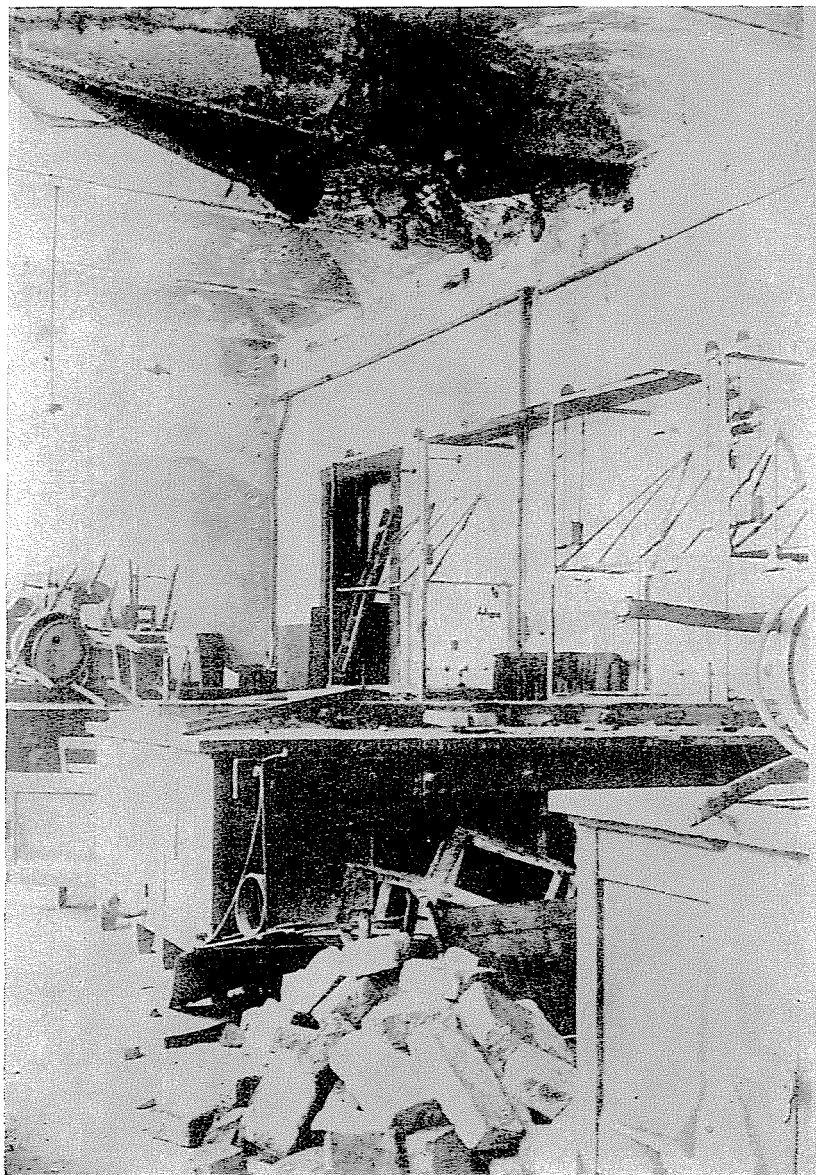
Despite bureaucratic measures and various obstructions, however, more and more worker and peasant youths each day, entered the Polytechnical University since the University could not fail to participate in the process of democratic transformation. For all the difficulties outlined above, nevertheless 5740 students enrolled for the first term of the academic year 1945—46.

### The reconstruction of the Polytechnical University

Immediately after the Liberation the Hungarian Communist Party theoretically clarified the social rôle of the intelligentsia. It sharply opposed the view that attributed responsibility for the national catastrophe which had taken place, to the Hungarian intelligentsia — the middle class. The Party considered this attitude incorrect because, apart from being untrue, it also offered an excuse to the capitalist and large landowner classes, releasing them from their actual responsibility.

It was in no small part the practical application of this correct theoretical attitude that brought about the successes of reconstruction. The attitude of the leadership of the Hungarian Communist Party was that the country could not be rebuilt without the participation of the intelligentsia, particularly without the technical intelligentsia.

In 1946 the Third Congress of the Hungarian Communist Party decided on the elaboration of a three-year economic plan to secure the restoration of the people's economy. The conditions for the fulfillment of the Three-Year Plan were as follows: the further progress of the development of the people's democratic forces, the removal of political power from the capitalist and large landowner class, the seizure of political leadership by the working class allied with the poor peasantry and, utilizing this, the step-by-step economic expropriation of the bourgeoisie. One more basic condition for the fulfillment of the Three-Year Plan was the rational organization of the process of labour and the vanquishing of our technical backwardness. It was this vast task for which the



Hungarian Communist Party called on the technical intelligentsia, including the instructors of the Polytechnical University, to battle.

After the Liberation the material situation and food problems of the professors were extremely grave. The Communist Party organizations did a great deal at the University to promote the removal of the rubble, get instruction under way, and improve the grave material situation of the University's students. The 14-strong Communist Party organizations formed at the Polytechnical University on August 26, 1945, was the first university Communist Party organization in the country, declared Zoltán Zoltai, the then University secretary of the HCP, in his recollections.

The University's Trade Union Local on May 16, 1946, addressed a memorandum to the General Secretaries of the HCP and the Social-Democratic Party, on the reconstruction of the Polytechnical University, the improvement of the material situation of its workers, and the provision of the minimum of equipment.

The HCP, having evaluated the tasks facing the country and the part the technical intelligentsia would have to play in carrying them out, turned with great attention and readiness to help over the problems of the Polytechnical University.

On October 18, 1946, the Political Committee of the HCP invited the teaching staff, the professors, and the leaders of the Party organization of the Polytechnical University to the Headquarters of the Central Committee, in order to obtain more concrete knowledge of the situation of the Polytechnical University and to become acquainted with the tasks facing the University.<sup>3</sup> In a discussion lasting several hours, the following professors of the Polytechnical University spoke: Iván Kotsis, Pál Gombás, József Jáky, Győző Mihailich, László Gillemot and Alfréd Bardon. The Rector, Zoltán Csűrös, who spoke several times, outlined the grave financial situation of the University, from which it turned out that 1,200,000 Forint were urgently needed to repair the damage to the buildings. The Polytechnical University was 960,000 Forint short of the sum needed to cover its annual expenditures and the amount provided in the budget for the whole year was not enough to pay the electricity bills for one month.

The leaders of the Party evinced extremely cordial interest in the problems raised by the professors. They pointed out that according to the Three-Year Plan which was to be worked out, the aim was to make Hungary the educated country of a prosperous people, and to achieve this within a very short time. To this end it would be necessary to assure a decisive rôle for the technical intelligentsia. On the grounds of the experiences gained during the past year, the leaders of the Party were definitely confident that the best

<sup>3</sup> *Szabad Nép*, Oct. 20, 1946, p. 2.

exponents of the Hungarian technical sciences would lend their fullest expert support in the preparation of the Plan. The professors welcomed the Three-Year Plan and promised that the Polytechnical University would offer the fullest expert support.

The participants accepted the proposal put forward by the leaders of the Party that a committee was to be formed to furnish immediate assistance to the Polytechnical University, and that this committee should within five days work out the means for solving the most urgent problems.

The 23rd October, 1946 issue of *Szabad Nép* carried a leading article on the reception organized by the Central Committee, stressing that "... we cannot advance the technical requirement of a Hungarian planned economy until we have furnished the elementary living and working conditions of the leading technical institutions, primarily of the professors at the Polytechnical University." *Szabad Nép* then went on to point out that "... the Hungarian workers, who have always been present when sacrifices had to be made for the cause of the nation, would again be among the first to help."

A statement by Prof. Csűrös on the above meeting was published in the 6th November, 1946 issue of *Szabad Nép*. The professor declared among others that: "The Party's leadership appeared ready, in the interests of the country and the people, to assist our Institution without which it considers reconstruction to be impossible."

The following facts are characteristic of the operative, swift work of the Communists:

— On 19th October, 1946 representatives of the Central Committee paid a visit to the Polytechnical University and had a brief talk with the heads of the Polytechnical University on the spot.<sup>4</sup>

— On 21st October a conference was held on the tasks concerned with the reconstruction of the University, at which all interested parties participated. At this meeting the Supreme Economic Council (SEC) adopted the following, with respect to the restoration and maintenance of the Polytechnical University: "In order to ensure the training of engineers, which is indispensable from the point of view of the reconstruction of Hungarian economic life, it is absolutely necessary as soon as possible to restore and satisfactorily to maintain the Polytechnical University. The cost of restoring the roof, carrying out minor repairs, putting glass in the windows and restoring the heating installations, involves a requirement of some 1,860,000 Forint . . . In the interests of the work of restoration it appears necessary . . . to call on the generosity of social and economic life, to permit and extend the allocations necessary for restoration."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *Szabad Nép*, Oct. 24, 1946, p. 5.

<sup>5</sup> Archives of the Central Council of Trades Unions, Engineers' Trade Union, 1946, 2/d.

— On 22nd October the SEC met and passed a resolution on the restoration of the Polytechnical University as soon as possible, providing allocations, materials and manpower.<sup>6</sup>

— On 22nd October the Polytechnical University received its first allocation of 115,000 Forint.<sup>7</sup> The significance of this event was enhanced by the wrangling that had accompanied the request for allocations. The fact was that the Rector, Prof. Csűrös, had on October 3rd, 1946, asked for an allocation of 50,000 Forint from the then Minister of Building, the Smallholders' Party deputy Endre Mistéth.<sup>8</sup>

The answer came a fortnight later, on 17th October, 1946, graciously making 25,000 Forint out of the 50,000 available, while the rest would have to wait till November.<sup>9</sup>

That was how much the Smallholders' Party cared for the fate of the Polytechnical University.

— On 24th October, 1946, Prof. Csűrös as Rector was able to thank the State Railways and the Post Office for grants of 50,000 and 25,000 Forint respectively, which these two bodies had offered to help restore the University. A decisive part was played in these grants by the HCP, the Communist Minister of Transport.<sup>10</sup>

The events of the six days between 18th and 24th October themselves show the operative and swift aid the Communists extended, to save the citadel of the Hungarian sciences.

On 21st October, 1946, at talks between the Party and those interested in the reconstruction of the University, it was decided that the SEC would "call on the leaders of the 'Workers for science, scientists for the workers'"<sup>11</sup> movement, to do some of the jobs, particularly the woodwork and the mending of the heating installations, as voluntary undertakings.<sup>12</sup>

According to the recollections of comrade Zoltán Zoltai the workers of several factories helped restore the University, as part of the "Workers for science . . ." campaign.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Szabad Nép*, Oct. 24, 1946, p. 5.

<sup>8</sup> Budapest Polytechnical University, Rectorial Archives, 1894/1946.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* 2250/1946.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* 2106/1946.

<sup>11</sup> The "Workers for science" campaign began on the initiative and under the leadership of the Communist Party in spring, 1946, to begin rebuilding the scientific institutions with the help of voluntary labour by the workers. The contribution of the scientists to this campaign was to begin the dissemination of scientific information, to teach and instruct workers, as part of the country's reconstruction. The "Workers for science" movement, led by the HCP, was one form of the efforts of the Communist Party to bring the working class and the intelligentsia closer to each other.

<sup>12</sup> Archives of the CCTU, Engineers' Union, 1946, 2/d.



The following results were achieved up to August, 1947, in the organization of the "Workers for science" campaign, to restore the Polytechnical University (the list is not complete):

— The Budapest Transport workers rebuilt the Chair of Railway Mechanics of the Polytechnical University.

— Workers of the Goldberger factory rebuilt all the machines and the roof of the University's Chair of Textile Machinery.

— Communist workers of the Drainage Maintenance Works mended the shattered drainage network of the Polytechnical University.<sup>13</sup>

— Five workers of the Csepel WM Works spent six weeks mending the central heating.

— Workers from the Drasche, the carpenters of the Carded Spinning Works and workers from the Ganz Wagon Factory also worked on the reconstruction of the University.<sup>14</sup>

— As part of the campaign, workers of the Gas Works spent 2420 hours on the reconstruction of the University, doing jobs to the value of 40,000 Forint.

— In January, 1947, the University received 63 wagon-loads of coal from the miners of Dorog, as part of the campaign.<sup>15</sup>

The stewards of the HCP rebuilt the General Chemistry Laboratory of the Polytechnical University. An account of the details of the work is given in an article entitled: "Headed for the Polytechnical University", in the May 11th, 1947, issue of *Szabad Nép* (p. 7). The work was begun on February 16th, 1947, and according to the article 250 shock-worker stewards took part in the building effort. By daytime there were only 6 permanent workers, but at night, after having done their day's work, the stewards of the Home Carded Spinnery, the Lampart Works, Budapest Transport, the Mauthner Leather Factory, Hungarian Cotton Industries and the Nagybátony-Ujlak Brick Works came to the building site. During the course of their work they carried 18 tons of debris out of the ravaged building, and with 8000 hours of work put the Laboratory in a usable condition.

The Managing Committee of the "Workers for science . . ." campaign, the leaders of the University and the Trade Union, in order to propagate the importance of the reconstruction of the Polytechnical University and to collect voluntary contributions, organized "Polytechnical University Days" in several provincial towns.

The first provincial Polytechnical University Days were held at Győr on March 8th and 9th, 1947. Similar Days were also held at Szombathely and Miskolc in the same year. The contemporary newspapers reported, in accounts

<sup>13</sup> *Szabad Nép*, Nov. 6, 1946, p. 3.

<sup>14</sup> *Szabad Nép*, Dec. 7, 1946, p. 5.

<sup>15</sup> Central Library of the BPU, from the collection of Zsigmond Károlyi. Part of a memorandum by Zoltán Csűrös on Jan. 31st, 1952.

of the provincial "Polytechnical University Days", such offers of the workers at the factories as for example that of the Győr Wagon Factory personnel, who gave 100 chairs for the Polytechnical University Library.<sup>16</sup> Although the financial returns from the "Polytechnical University Days" were less than had been expected, nevertheless they accomplished their purpose and drew the attention of the workers of the country to the importance of reconstructing the University.

According to a report of the Polytechnical University branch of the HCP on 24th December, 1946,<sup>17</sup> several Polytechnical University employees, scientists and physical workers, received free textiles on 30th December, 1946, as part of the "Workers for science" campaign.

At the same time the HCP branch, through the "Workers for science" campaign, obtained scholarships for several scientists in the factories with remunerations of 4—500 Forint, and this fact also earned increased respect for the Communist Party at the University, declared Zoltán Zoltai in his recollections.

It may be seen from the above that the Hungarian Communist Party, through the "Workers for science" campaign, did exceeding much in the interests of reconstructing the Polytechnical University. Evidently the manual workers did not retreat at the sight of the difficulties which faced them, and due to their efforts the professors were able to instruct the new Hungarian technical intelligentsia in heated lecture theatres, with mended equipments. Prof. Csűrös was fully justified in declaring: "The 'Workers for science' campaign has achieved inestimable results. It is no use calculating how many hours of work were performed, for their genuine value is ten times that amount. I may well say that if the workers had not taken the lead in this campaign, public opinion would not have been roused on behalf of the Polytechnical University."<sup>18</sup>

The workers, who as we have seen took part with great enthusiasm and unselfishness in the reconstruction of the Polytechnical University, did not expect anything else of the representatives of the technical sciences than that they should continue to do research in this scientific institution, and to train good engineers. The working class, of course, also required that gifted young workers should enter the University.

Also the professors of the University were not inactive during this period of reconstruction, but went out among the workers who thirsted for knowledge, to deliver lectures. In the course of these lectures our professors frequently talked not only about technical matters, but at the workers' request also spoke about the country's expected development and the future of the working class.

<sup>16</sup> Trade Union Gazette, Sept. 15, 1957, p. 16.

<sup>17</sup> BPU Trade Union Archives.

<sup>18</sup> *Szabad Nép*, May 30, 1947, p. 3.

It was thus that the scientists, the professors of the Polytechnical University, came close to the workers. Professor Csűrös for example went twice a week to the workers of the EMERGE Factory.<sup>19</sup> The professors of the University not only delivered individual lectures, but also organized courses and taught at workers' schools.

The Chemical Engineering Faculty of the Polytechnical University undertook to organize a Chemical Workers' School<sup>20</sup> and to teach the specialist subjects there. This school trained young workers who had not been able to attend secondary school. The plan was that completion of the Chemical Workers' School would be tantamount to a grammar school matriculation certificate, after which the workers who had studied there could proceed to a university. It was a basic requirement that only workers could enter this School, who had spent at least three years working in a factory. The School commenced in September, 1946, with a student body of some 70 people, and it operated fruitfully under the direction of István Fenyő, a professor at the Chair of Mathematics. In the opinion of the instructors, the worker students had brought tremendous perseverance, sincerity, aptitude and tenacity with them, and it was a joy to work with them.

In 1947 the University arranged a preparation course for students intending to enroll in the Polytechnical High School.<sup>21</sup>

The State Polytechnical High School was established institutionally to provide for the higher technical education of working people. This type of school was intended to be of a transitional character until such time as study at the Polytechnical University would become possible. This High School could only take on students who would work during the day, through their three-year period of study. Enrolment was preceded by a strict entrance exam. In the autumn of 1947, 340 students out of 800 candidates were admitted to the School. The High School began functioning in five specialized divisions, all five being established strictly in accordance with the requirements of practical life and the task of reconstruction. The specialized divisions were: metal technology, works power utilization, telecommunication, textile mechanics, textile chemistry.

The professors of the Polytechnical University thus also took their honest share in the work of the "Workers for science, scientists for the workers" movement.

The restoration of the Polytechnical University was a great contribution to the reconstruction of the country, but the rebuilding of the University could not of course be completed, and the training of engineers maintained at a high level, purely through voluntary efforts.

<sup>19</sup> *Szabad Nép*, Oct. 9, 1946.

<sup>20</sup> *Szabad Nép*, Sept. 5, 1946.

<sup>21</sup> *Szabad Nép*, Aug. 8, 1947 and Nov. 22, 1947.

The Three-Year Plan made it possible to devote greater and more planned financial support to training in the scientific disciplines, in order to bring about the political power of the working class not only in the economic but also the ideologic field. The Three-Year Plan devoted considerable sums to the rebuilding of the universities. The Three-Year Plan earmarked 62 million Forint for the rebuilding and development of the universities, 37 million for the reconstruction of the Polytechnical University alone. The special attention devoted to the Polytechnical University itself expressed the basic idea of the Plan, that science must be set to serve the development of the country's forces of production.

#### The scientific research and technical works of the teaching staff of the Polytechnical University during the period of reconstruction

During the War many text-books and much written material was destroyed, and to replace them the professors prepared notes on their own subjects, so facilitating the work of their students.

Our instructors made use of study tours to train the students for practical life. During the academic year 1945/46, the following study tours and practical exercises took place: Conducted by Prof. Győző Mihailich, the fourth year civil engineering students inspected the work of restoring the *Szabadság* Bridge at Budapest. Led by Prof. Endre Németh, third and fourth year civil engineering students carried out flow velocity measurements and bed surveys in the Óbuda branch of the Danube. In May, 1946, the Chair of Textile Chemistry led by Prof. Zoltán Csűrös, organized a study tour and period of practice at the Goldberger Factory. Prof. Antal Tárczy-Hornoch held a one-week closing exercise in geodesy in the neighbourhood of Sopron, and a four-day closing exercise in mine surveying at Brennbergbánya. The students learned much from these study tours and exercises.

After the Liberation, scientific research and experiments began among the ruins at the Polytechnical University. At the Chair of Electricity, a large part of the equipment was preserved, so that research could be carried out as soon as 1945. At this Chair, in the High Tension Laboratory, investigations were carried out under Prof. László Verebély on electric fields of force, solid-state insulators and insulating oils.

A large part of the equipment at the Laboratory of the Chair of Atomic Physics was ruined, so that research work was continued in cooperation with one of the laboratories of the United Incandescent. At the Chair of Physics research work was directed by Prof. Pál Gombás. Drs. Albert Kónya and Rezső Gáspár carried out investigations with respect to the HJ molecule, on the basis of the statistical theory. Further important research work was

carried out at the Chair of Physics by Aladár Kónig and dr. Tibor Hoffmann. The Chair of Physics established close cooperation with the Biochemical Institute in examining the atomic structure of proteins.

Beyond the work of training and education, the writing of notes and scientific research work, our professors also took part in practical work that lent to the immediate aid to the industry. They designed buildings and bridges, directed the work in various spheres of reconstruction, and in very many places helped by offering expert advice. The following list, which is not intended to be complete, is to show the work done by our professors amid the difficult circumstances of the years following the Liberation.

*Prof. István Barta* engaged in scientific work in the spheres of electric and wireless techniques, publishing several papers in the periodicals *Híradástechnika* ("Communications") and *Elektrotechnika*. In 1948 he wrote a 178 pp. set of notes entitled "Wireless Receiving Techniques." In 1948 he was awarded the medal "For Excellent Work".

*Prof. Dénes Beke*, through his theoretical works and patents, did pioneering work in the sphere of pharmaceutical chemistry. The greatest part of his patents and registered processes were put into practice at the United Medicines and Food Preparations Factory.

*Prof. Zoltán Csűrös* was for a large part of the period under discussion, Rector of the University. He had been doing scientific work since 1928. His work "On Catalysis and Catalysts" is of great significance. During this period he also published numerous other papers. Important among his technical works are the "Procedures in the Manufacture of Dyes".

*Prof. László Gillemot* published two highly important books in 1946, one on "Welding", the other on "The Technology of Metals". Important among his technical achievements was the working out of new welding procedures and teaching them to the workers, moreover the X-raying of the steel structure of the Kossuth Bridge. In recognition of his activities he was awarded a Kossuth Prize in 1946, in 1948 the silver class of the "Republican Medal of Merit".

*Prof. Pál Gombás*, the outstanding physicist, published several notes and books of great significance on the principles of thermodynamics, electrodynamics, atomic physics, optics and mechanics. In 1948 he was awarded the gold class of the Kossuth Prize.

*Prof. Árpád Macskásy* was responsible for so great a technical feat, as the deep-freezing equipment at Csepel, built under his guidance in 1947. The introduction of radiant screen heating is also his merit.

*Prof. István Kovács*, the world famous atomic physicist, published several papers in foreign languages, e.g. A. Budó—I. Kovács: *On the fine structure of  $4 \Sigma$  states of diatomic molecules.*<sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Acta Phys. Hung. 1, 1948.

*Prof. Ábrahám Géza Pattantyus* gave evidence of the high level of his theoretical work by writing several books, e.g. in 1945 on "Elevators", in 1946 on "Energy characteristics of damped oscillations".

*Prof. János Prosz*, an eminent chemist, in 1946 together with Prof. Tibor Erdey-Grúz, wrote a book on "Practical Physical Chemistry". In 1948 he published a significant paper on "The surface treatment of aluminium".

*Prof. Imre Rázsó* carried out excellent theoretical and practical, experimental work on the modernization of agricultural machinery. In 1947 he published an important paper on "The rôle of four-wheel drives in cross-country vehicles".

*Prof. Imre Vörös* wrote a highly significant work on "Cogwheels". He was the first Director of the State Polytechnical High School.

The list of scientific works, of national and in many cases international significance, may be concluded by mentioning the achievements of *Géza Zemplén*, the world famous chemist. He began his scientific research in 1904, and in the course of his further work produced scientific results of unbelievable quantity and importance. In 1948 he was awarded the Kossuth Prize.

The professors of the Polytechnical University thus played an important part in the reconstruction of Hungary. Their work, both in the period between 1945 and 1948, and also later, served the working people, the people's democratic system, since they saw that the people's democratic state honours creative work and provides the opportunity for engaging in it. Our working people appreciate and treasure the scientific, teaching and training activities of the professors of the Polytechnical University.

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