VYTAUTAS SIUDIKAS, JONAS ŽEKONIS

DENTISTRY IN VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY

On January 27, 1920 the Higher Courses were founded in Kaunas, the interim capital of Lithuania. The Medical Department was a part of it.

On September 1, 1921, the Dentistry division of the Medical Department was started with Adolfas Petrauskas, a dentist, as head of this section.

On February 16, 1922, the University of Lithuania (from 1930 it was named Vytautas Magnus University) was established on existing basis of Higher Courses in Kaunas. The Medical Faculty incorporated the Odontology Department with its two sections.

On October 11, 1922, a dentist Ona Mikuckaite, a graduate of St.Petersburg Institute of Women Doctors, joined A.Petrauskas in this Department. In 1923, after the death of A.Petrauskas, she was elected as head of the laboratory of prosthetic technique.

On May 15, 1924 Povilas Stančius (1888–1962), a graduate of the Academy of Medical Surgery in St.Petersburg, was elected as head of the Department of Stomatology and orthopedics. P.Stančius received his professional background at the odontological institutes of Vienna and Zürich. In 1926, he became an assistant professor and in 1938 – a professor. His research covered the etiology and treatment of congenital defects of palate and odontological cysts. He published 16 papers on these subjects. «About odontological cysts» being the most outstanding.

In 1930, Elena Pšigodskiene was elected as assistant, after her studies in Tartu University. She worked in the department till 1936.

Since 1936, Vytautas Damijonaitis was nominated as assistant after graduating from Vytautas Magnus University. He defended a thesis «About interaction of vitamine A and D».

In 1940 the Department of Odontology moved into the new University Clinic.

Since 1928 it took four years and eight exams to graduate from the Department of Odontology.

The Department of Odontology during the Nazi occupation, the Vytautas Magnus University was closed on March 17, 1943, in revenge for the refusal of young Lithuanians to serve in the Reich army.

Ona Mikuckaite

Povilas Stančius

The way out was found by J.Dobrovolskaite-Tiknienė senior assistant of Anatomy Department: in the same 1943 she managed to use the Kaunas Adult Institute as a front for the continuing enrolment of the first years students.

In 1944, Prof. P.Stančius and Dr. V.Damijonaitis left for the West.

On August 30, 1944, O.Mikuckaite became the head of the Department of the Therapeutic and Orthopedic Stomatology, and on October 18, 1944, Dr. Leonas Misevičius was assigned as head of the Department of Surgical stomatology. In 1949, he was nominated to head the unified chair of stomatology.

At the end of 1950 the Kaunas University was reorganized into the Kaunas Medical Institute and the Kaunas Polytechnical Institute.

All told in 1922–1950, have graduated from the above educational facilities 906 stomatologists.

Following this organization, the training of stomatologists was concentrated in Kaunas Medical Institute under the guidance of Professor Stasys Čepulis (1910–1989), the widely known and esteemed specialist of surgical stomatology.