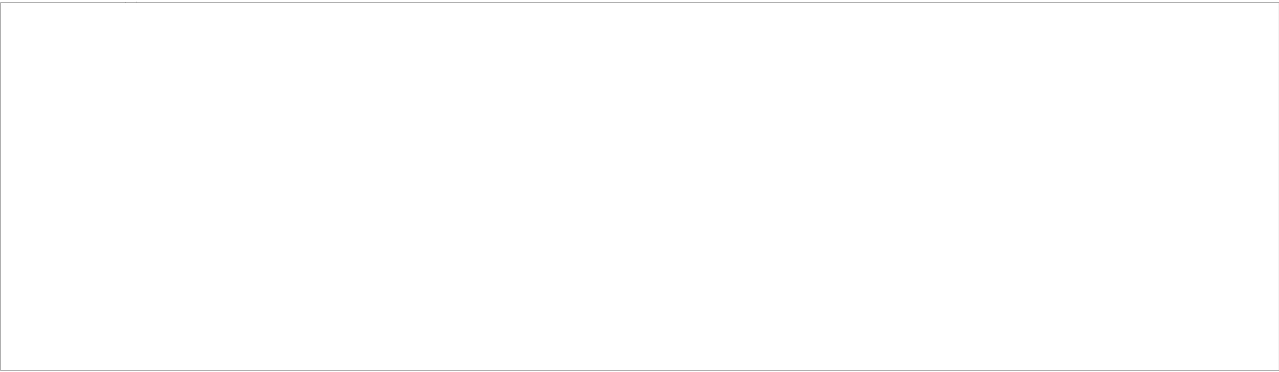


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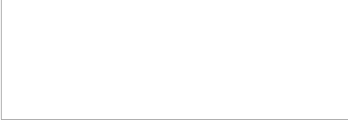
The Study of Geophysics at the First Level

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Przegląd Meteorologiczny i Hydrologiczny  
No 1-4 (1949), pages 170-171.



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## THE STUDY OF GEOPHYSICS AT THE FIRST LEVEL

The organization of studies in geophysics has finally entered upon realistic paths. In connection with the introduction of the master's degree in geophysics in 1948 (see the Report of the Council for Higher Schools, 1948, pages 185 - 203), the Commission on Geophysics attached to the Section for Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the Chief Council in the Ministry for Education held a series of meetings at which the program and schedule of hours for lectures on geophysics were discussed. As a result of these deliberations, in which the representatives of the various fields of geophysics and related sciences participated, a plan was worked out for the study of geophysics in respect to content and order, as well as to the number of hours.

Some of the decisions in this plan have already obtained a binding status. This is especially true of the first year studies, which were regulated (for some of the fields of studies in the mathematical and natural science departments of state schools on an academic level) by ordinance of the Minister for Education, issued 2 January 1950 (see Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland, No 2, 27 January 1950). On the basis of this ordinance, there is being introduced a two-level organization for the following fields of studies: mathematics, physics and geophysics, chemistry, biology, and geography. The studies on the first level last 3 years and are on the order of trade school studies. Completion of studies at the first level qualify the student for work in practical trades and is also a condition

for admission to studies at the second level. Completion of studies at the second level gives the privilege of obtaining an academic degree, i.e., in this case, the master's degree.

Concerning geophysics, inasmuch as it is necessary to acquire a strong foundation in mathematics and physics, the study of geophysics during the first two years is conducted in common with the studies of physics. It consists primarily of lectures in mathematics and in physics as well as work in the physics laboratory. It is only in the third year that there follows a certain branching out. The students of geophysics do not listen to the lectures on technical physics, nor do they take part in the experiments in physics. On the other hand, they do hear lectures on the introduction to general geophysics as well as to dynamic geology. The introduction to general geophysics is planned as a lecture course and provides a survey of the fields in physics of the earth, the hydrosphere, and the atmosphere. It is compulsory for all students of geophysics. The purpose here is that a student should have a general knowledge of the whole subject when he begins his specialization in the fourth year.

The first level of studies ends with the third year. Those among the students who, for various reasons, do not want to continue with their studies, will be able to finish with the first level. After passing the appropriate examinations, they will obtain the privilege of "working at practical trades, in which it is necessary to complete the appropriate higher studies." As far as the students of geophysics are concerned, the first three years do not provide them with a satisfactory preparation in the

field of geophysics, for these only represent the substructure in mathematics and physics and an introduction to general geophysics. For this reason, the geophysicist who decides to stop his studies after the first level will rather have to choose a teaching career as a lecturer in physics or in mathematics.

Since the real study of geophysics will take place only on the second level, the students of geophysics are advised not to break off their studies at the end of the third year but to continue them in the fourth and the fifth years. The second level of these studies provides for a specialization in three fields: (a) physics of the earth, (b) physics of the atmosphere, and (c) physics of waters, with two variations -- oceanology or hydrology.

The physics of the earth will be the primary study of those who intend to work in the fields of the earth's magnetism, in gravimetry, or in seismology, as well as in geophysical prospecting, that is, in geophysical explorations for mining purposes. This last field will most probably require the largest number of employees with an education in geophysics.

The physics of the atmosphere is the primary study for those who intend to work as meteorological specialists, such as theoretical meteorologists, synopticians, climatologists, etc.

Finally, the third specialization will have two directions: (1) oceanological-- for those who desire to do maritime investigation, and (2) hydrological -- for inland hydrologists. The scientists in the three last fields will have great opportunities

in the state hydrological and meteorological service.

At the present time (the beginning of 1950), the first year of studies is already in progress. The above-mentioned ordinance of the Minister for Education also provides, in the attachment, a plan for lectures and experiments, as well as for examinations which are obligatory in the first year of the first level for studies in mathematics and physics. It also prescribes the matter of seminars and examinations. We are presenting herein a schedule of hours for the field of studies "Physics combined with Geophysics."

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