

Plenary Lecture

THE TRAIL OF INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

an international program as a possibility lending itself to the popularisation of Hungarian relics of natural sciences and history of technology

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Hungary's rich heritage in the field of natural sciences and history of technology makes it possible to meet the growing interest of today's people in the past, in history, and in traditions. There are several opportunities of popularizing the intellectual and object heritage of scientific trades. Besides the domestic and foreign cultural events and festivals that exist today, others have to be looked for. The "Trail of industrial heritage" is one of the opportunities that present themselves for the purpose. In Hungary a working organisation brought into being within the frames of the Federation of Technical and Scientific Associations (MTESZ) joined the international initiative. The author described the results achieved till now, and – finally – spoke about the steps to follow.

The Ford T-model is 100 years old

JÓZSEF GALAMB AND THE FORD T-MODEL

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One hundred years ago, in early 1907, József Galamb started – upon Henry Ford's initiative – to design the Ford T-model, which proved to be a world-wide success lasting till today.

József Galamb obtained his final certificate, together with 28 other students from the legal predecessor of today's Budapest Technical College, the Higher State School of Industry, 106 years ago. His talent soon raised him from the ranks of his schoolmates and made him one of the determinant creative technicians of his age. The paper aimed at giving an overview of his life – with a number of original illustrations – from his native place Makó in Hungary to Detroit, showing his activities at Ford Motor Company, and his relations, as recognized expert, with his homeland.

Built relics of science and technology

THE FIRST HUNGARIAN PHARMACEUTICAL FACTORY

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The well-known Hungarian pharmaceutical industry is the product of the 20th century. Its 19th-century predecessor, the Pester Chemisch-technische Fabrikgesellschaft is, however, hardly

known. Its founder and first owner was the chemist and pharmacist Dr. Dániel Wágner (1800-1890). He was, actually, the first Hungarian doctor of chemistry. After renting a pharmacy in Pozsony, he opened one in Pest, then opened a chemical laboratory and, finally, a factory. As the family capital proved insufficient to run the latter, it was turned into a share company in 1867. Besides its bilingual statutes, there exist two booklets (in Hungarian language) of similar content but not quite identical nomenclature. Following the description given in the booklet, the author gives an account on the buildings/plants of the factory, its goals, activities and products, its structure, its management, its statutes, and – finally – the conditions of its dissolution. As a matter of fact, the venture showed a deficit throughout its existence. The author gives an explanation to this seemingly inexplicable fact.

THE GAS FACTORY IN BUDAPEST'S DISTRICT "JÓZSEFVÁROS" FROM THE TURN OF THE 19th AND 20th CENTURIES TO THE MILLENNIUM

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In 1910 the gas factories came under the management of the Capital. Three years later the big municipal gas factory in Óbuda was inaugurated. In 1914 production was stopped in Józsefváros and – with the exception of the one in district "Ferencváros" – in all the small gas factories (Buda and Újpest).

With the end of production the factory and grounds were to be liquidated, however, World War I prevented it.

Demolition of the plant's buildings that had lost their functions, started. The majority of the sites of the demolished buildings remained empty. Later stories were added to the still existing buildings, thus the building of the management was raised by one storey, and to the so-called Pucher-building a storey was added, too, and it was enlarged by a new wing.

Thereafter no building worth mentioning was erected, car sheds, store rooms, and a one-level workshop occupied the place of the demolished plant buildings. After 1945 a one-level canteen, and next to it an office building were built. Until 1985 the barrack system remained, thereafter reconstruction of the site started. From 1992 on the site was built over in a kind of circle- or frame-like way, and the buildings that remained were redecorated and surrounded by green areas. By the millennium the piece of land was practically built in.

HOW THE BUDAPEST ASTRONOMIC OBSERVATORIES WERE BUILT (1871-1920)

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During the War of Independence (1849) the observatory of the Royal University was destroyed, and the so-called Citadella was built on its site. For decades the Department of Astronomy of the University did not even have a training observatory, and in 1957 the Department itself was discontinued. First the founding director of the Meteorological Institute, Guido Schenzl tried – supported by the Minister of Education József Eötvös – to set up a small observatory in 1871, which was working (for financial reasons) in very primitive conditions. At the same time the professor of geodesy István Kruspér had a small observatory built in the new "palace"

of the Technical University Palatine József, mainly for determining the exact time. In 1890 the director of the Meteorological Institute Miklós Konkoly Thege proposed to build a new training observatory on mount Gellert, and to equip an independent scientific institute with instruments donated by him. This plan, however, got stuck. After the Technical University had moved to its new building in Buda, a training observatory was set up by Radó Kövesligethy, using the telescope of the Meteorological Institute in 1911, at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Sciences, in the cupola left empty in Museum boulevard. Finally, in 1920, the Municipal Council of Capital Budapest decided to donate – instead of Ógyalla that had been annexed to Czechoslovakia – an area of 40.000 m² on Svábhegy (one of the hills surrounding Buda) for building a new national observatory. Relying on the designs of the Construction Office of the Capital, at the expenses of the Ministry of Religion and Public Education and private persons (as well as a repeated donation by Capital Budapest and private donations) the construction of a then very modern astronomic observatory started in 1920 and was completed by 1928. This was the “Konkoly observatory” existing till today.

IMPACT OF TIMBER CONVERSION ON THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT (Contributions to the Cultural History of the Conversion of Timber III)

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Trees themselves form nature and generate forests. In Hungary, wood cutting and the use of petrol-fuelled chain saws but scarcely pollute the environment: waste timber remains in the forest and undergoes decomposition. In sawmills timber is processed in its natural state, waste wood does not pollute nature, it can be burnt on the spot. Industrial scale processing of timber in its natural state equally but scarcely pollutes our environment. Furniture and construction joinery might cause noise and air pollution. Factory buildings are components of our built environment. Regarded as a whole, timber conversion is in a favourable condition: its raw material can be reproduced, and pollutes the environment to a lesser extent. To put it short: timber is a material of the past, the present, and the future.

OBJECTS AND BUILT RELICS IN THE CONVERSION OF TIMBER (Contributions to the Cultural History of the Conversion of Timber IV)

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The author gives a selection of objects and built relics related to the history of the conversion of timber, on the basis of public collections and exhibitions of local history, in the towns of Sopron, Lenti and Budapest. Teaching of the conversion of timber had appeared as soon as in the curriculum of foresters' training, then blossomed out at the University of Sopron. In Lenti, the woodworking and timber industries of the region as well as the narrow-track railway appear in the permanent exhibition of local history, where the steam engine manufactured in 1922 that can still be run, is a special object of interest. This engine used to drive the machines of the wood-mill. In Budapest we can read about entrepreneurs of the woodworking industry in the 19th century and about one of its recent establishments, the Palace of Arts and its neighbourhood.

SOME OBJECT RELICS OF THE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FROM THE EPOCH OF DUALISM

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The autor gives a survey on the medals donated to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) by other academies or scientific institutions as a sign of their esteem as well as the prestige of MTA during the period of the Dualistic Monarchy (1867-1918). On the other hand, it enlists the memorial medals it donated to outstanding Hungarian personalities of science, literature and arts. The pictures of all the medals – themselves artistic pieces – enlisted, are shown in the paper.

FOLLOWING THE TRACES OF THE RENAISSANCE WATER PUMP IN ESZTERGOM

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Below the north bastion of Esztergom Fortress, on the bank of the Danube, a rich carst spring broke out in days long past. According to mediaeval historical data the spring was able to drive mill stones. It was much admired by contemporaries but no reliable description can be found as to its structure and working principle. A Turk traveller of the 17th century gave a description of the machine, and several inventors tried to reconstruct it on the basis of it. However, probably owing to inaccurate translation, these attempts failed in one or the other aspect. After a thorough study of the literature existing at home and abroad, the author came to the conclusion that the water wheel driven by the spring's water must have operated two constructions: a hydraulic water engine working with (cannon) balls that raised the water from the Danube's surface, and a so-called "tympanon", a compact wheel that forwarded the lifted water to the fortress, and to which the arm of the pump's piston was fastened.

THE PHOTOPLOTTER FAMILY LASERGRAPH

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The LaserGraph LG-1, the first photoplotter of Europe, was developed by Head of Department Dr. Károly Vörös and his co-workers at the Research Institute of Computer Technique and Automation of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1984. An early version of the object and a mature manufactured specimen are preserved at the Hungarian Museum for Science and Technology. LaserGraph became later the trade name of a photoplotter family. The success of the family of objects is also indicated by the prizes won at the Budapest International Fair and the Leipzig Fair. The history of the development and manufacture of the objects cannot be separated from the development of the laser technique and the technique of printed circuits. The photoplotter family LaserGraph became a much liked tool of printing houses and engineers' design institutes. Some specimens are still used today in many of parts of the world. The study attributes great importance to the oral communications of constructor Iván Kas, which allow an insight into the successes and failures of the Hungarian engineers of the 1980s-1990s, and the economic limits of the changing epoch.

Outstanding personalities of sciences and technology

CREATIVE PIONEER FARKAS MOLNÁR WAS BORN 100 YEARS AGO

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(Ferenc) Farkas Molnár (1897-1945) first studied painting at the College of Fine Arts, then continued his studies at Technical University Palatine József. In 1921 he joined the Bauhaus. In Weimar he was, among others, a student of Walter Gropius. In 1923 he organised the first exhibition of Bauhaus, where he presented his design of a dwelling house, which later gained fame under the name of "Red cube". In 1925 he returned to Hungary, and graduated as architect from Technical University in 1928. He mainly built dwellings. At the end of his short life he was commissioned by the Franciscans' order to design the Church of the Holy Land, in 1938. However, death prevented him to finish his large-scale project. The building, remained a torso, is serving at present as store-rooms of an archive. The parts that have been finished point in the direction of post-modernism.

UNITED INCANDESCENT LAMPS – TUNGSRAM – GENERAL ELECTRIC

Reflections on the 115-year-anniversary of the foundation

(A chain-link in the history of incandescent lamps: Mihály Polányi)

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United Incandescent Lamps or Tungsrám was one of the most important industrial ventures of Hungary at the end of the 19th century. The question is, what was the role of physician, physico-chemist and philosopher Polányi in these surroundings? The fact is that Mihály Polányi and Imre Bródy jointly developed the technology suited for the mass-production of a mixture of crypton and xenon from air. They decided to liquefy 10% of the air and cool the rest in a counter-current cooler for washing out crypton from it. Thus the components of air of higher boiling points remain in the liquefied air. This way a higher crypton concentration can be achieved, which still can be improved by distillation. This procedure significantly decreased the production costs of crypton. The factory serving for the mass production of the crypton bulb was built in Ajka in 1936. Mihály Polányi helped construction of the factory with his advice.

CHEMICAL ENGINEER AND TITULAR UNIVERSITY DOCENT IMRE HARSÁNYI,
LORÁND EÖTVÖS-PRIZE WINNER AND OUTSTANDING PERSONALITY OF THE
HUNGARIAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Éva FÁBIÁN
Hungarian Museum of Chemistry and Chemical Industry, Várpalota, Thury castle

Imre Harsányi (1934-1996) graduated from the Military-Chemical Faculty of Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology in Moscow, in 1958. After his return home he was working from that very year till 1986 for Nitrokémia. During these 28 years he got acquainted with all the levels of engineering work. He was junior engineer, operating engineer from 1961, factory

unit manager from 1961, factory section manager from 1964, head of the division of technical development from 1968, technical deputy director general from 1971, and director general from 1980.

The factory first had produced industrial explosives, then – following the change in product profile necessary to ensure survival of the company – intermediates of pharmaceuticals and plant protection chemicals, raw material for plastics, and plastics, and – in the largest amount pesticides.

After various posts, he spent his last active years with Nitrogénművek Share Company. This company purchased the equipment of the bankrupt Péti Nitrogénművek. Under Harsányi's leadership the Share Company was turned into a profitable venture.

A FORGOTTEN CASTLE AND ITS ARCHITECT/BUILDER JENŐ BORY

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Architect and sculptor Jenő Bory was born on 9 November 1879 in Székesfehérvár. He studied in Budapest as a grant holder of his native town. He graduated from the Faculty of Architecture of Technical University Palatine József in 1903. In 1904 he continued his studies at the National Royal Hungarian School of drawings (from 1908 on College of Fine Arts). At the College, he was working for a while as trainee, then as assistant professor, finally as professor. Between 1943 and 1945 he was rector of the institution. He was not only an outstanding architect but also a sculptor.

In 1912 he purchased – in the district Máriavölgy of Székesfehérvár – an acre of land, where he built the so-called “Bory Castle” with his own hands. The building material of the castle is mainly concrete and iron concrete, which fact was considered by his contemporaries a unique technical achievement. The traits of different architectural styles can be traced in the castle which was being built from 1913 during 40 summers. In the “Courtyard of 100 columns” the sculptures of great personalities of Hungarian history can be seen from “chieftain” Álmos [who had lead the Hungarians to the Carpathian Basin] to Sebestyén Tinódi Lantos, [a Hungarian poet of the 16th century].

HUNGARIAN SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS AND INVENTORS ON CD-ROM

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The Workshop for the History of Science of BME OMIKK (Budapest Technical University, National Hungarian Centre of Informatics and Library) had started its work as far back as in 1997, within the frame of OMIKK (National Hungarian Centre of Informatics and Library), and stopped it – after being united with the Library of the Technical University – when the Management of Informatics was dissolved in May 2007. During its 11 years of existence the workshop edited 11 multimedia CD-ROM publications, which is a unique achievement in domestic editing of digital publications. These 11 publications contributed, by presenting the activities of a total of 121 outstanding engineers, scientists and inventors – Hungarians or of Hungarian origin – to preserving and enriching Hungarian national cultural heritage. Beyond the persons, the publications present hundreds of important experts, factories, institutions, organisations as well as scientific and technological achievements, describing their relationship to history, special literature or patents with the help of pictures and movie films.

Director general of the Ganz factory András Mechwart died 100 years ago

INDUSTRY – MECHANICAL INDUSTRY – MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY DURING THE
50 YEARS FOLLOWING THE COMPROMISE
(Plenary lecture)

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In the period following the Compromise [between Austria and Hungary, 1867] large scale development started in the domestic industry, in the first place in the mechanical industry. By the last decade of the century it was clearly the Capital that became the centre of the domestic manufacturing industry, together with the mechanical industry within it, as well as – to an increasing extent – the electric industry. Factory founding in the Capital went in the direction of large scale production, and even the successive crises could not cause a major breakage in this trend. As a result of the spectacular economic development at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries the foundations of modern capitalist economy were laid down, with all the advantages and drawbacks of the latter. The companies brought into being that achieved, in some cases – basically owing to intellectual innovations – important results, were up-to-date. However, the general level of development of the Hungarian industry was lagging far behind them.

MECHWART COMMEMORATIVE EXHIBITION AT THE FOUNDRY MUSEUM

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The Foundry Museum paid its respects to the one-time Director General of the Ganz Factory András Mechwart with the comprehensive commemorative exhibition opened in November 2007.

Mechwart lived in Hungary in the second half of the 19th century. He took over the management of the Buda Ganz factory after Ábrahám Ganz's death in 1867. At the beginning he had dealt with chill-cast wheels and points as well as the manufacture of different mechanical devices. In 1872 he enlarged the factory with the Ratibor plant. Later he dealt with roller mills for the milling industry, then with the manufacture of projectiles for the artillery, and with water turbines. For the roller mills of the milling industry he introduced the chill-cast technology that had worked well with railway wheels, and permanently improved the milling technology by patented processes. The factory was enlarged in 1879 but as soon as in 1878 the electrotechnical laboratory had been brought into being, from which the Ganz Electric Share Company was developed. After enlarging the plant in Buda he purchased, in 1880, the waggon company in Kőbányai street (on the Pest side), and developed it to such an extent that in some years production rose 9fold. He was a great inventor as well: he obtained patents for 27 inventions. He had an excellent eye for choosing the best of young engineers as co-workers of the factory. His sensitivity in social matters was proven by the fact that he brought into being a relief fund for workers, kept up 445 workers' dwellings, and established an old-age pension fund. The factories were equipped with canteens and baths, there were sickness benefits and health provisions.

The exhibition gives a cross-section of Mechwart's activities in the field of technology, organisation and management.

ANDRÁS MECHWART'S ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RAILWAY TRANSPORT IN HUNGARY

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Ganz Holding Zrt.
Collection of Factory History

The well documented paper deals, in detail, with the following issues:

1. Beginning of the development of railways in Hungary;
2. Development of Hungarian railway lines after the Compromise;
3. Mechwart's activities in bringing into being Hungarian manufacture of railway vehicles;
4. Acquisition of Első Magyar Vagongyár Rt. (First Hungarian Waggon Factory Corp.), founding of the Ganz Waggon Factory, and further field enlargement;
5. Products of the Waggon Factory between 1880 and 1907.

RELICS OF ART RELATED TO ANDRÁS MECHWART

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The author enlists the relics of art that show András Mechwart; among others an oil painting, a relief, the coat of arms of the Mechwart family, his tomb, and a monument erected in a public place. All those that participated in creating these works of art were first class, renowned Hungarian artists.

Issues of different special fields

CONCEPTIONS OF DEVELOPING DOMESTIC WATER WAYS IN THE EARLY 20th CENTURY OR THE DAM AND FLOODGATE FOR SHIPS OF BÖKÉNY

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Building a structure, i.e. starting an investment related to a river was always preceded by determining, whether it was worth while doing so. Over 100 years ago the "value" of a river was indicated by the following criteria:

- whether it was navigable and to which extent;
- whether its water could be used for irrigation;
- whether its flow gave a possibility of producing water power etc.

Act XLVIII of the year 1895 dealt first with the improvement of water transport. In 1902 the participants of a series of debates expressed the view that building of an east-western system of canals would be expedient, with the two big rivers, the Danube and the Tisza in the centre. The link of the two big rivers would be joined by the Bökény structure that would make navigable the Körös rivers more than 40 km upwards from the orifice. This was the first structure that would dam the water of the Körös rivers expressly in the interest of navigation. The designs were ready by 1902. A tender was invited. The winner, a renowned professor of the Technical University

planned to build a ferro-concrete floodgate for ships. Later, in operating the floodgate, it meant difficulties that the basic body made of monolith ferro-concrete did not rest on homogenous soil. At one end the soil was sandy clay, at the other very compactly settled sand of fine grains. Accordingly, during operation, sinking occurred, and longitudinal as well as transversal cracks were the result, which had to be remedied. Today, the dam is a wreck out of use but perhaps not for ever.

URÁNIA – AN ATTEMPT AT MAKING SCIENCE ACCEPTED

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At the end of the 19th century it was a generally acknowledged opinion all over Europe that the real scholar had to popularize the results of his research. Following the Berlin example the Uránia Hungarian Scientific Theatre was opened in Budapest. The institution came into being upon the initiative of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and was supported by the state.

Essentially, Uránia was an institution manufacturing and lending series of slides, thus adding an important element to “free education” (teaching of adults). The series of slides could be rented. In its catalogue of 1911, the institution described 40.000 slides. It organized programs filling the whole evening, and shorter lectures. The majority of lecturers were well-known scientists.

In order to enhance the efficiency of the association's work and to intellectually guide the members, a monthly bulletin was published under the title “Uránia” from May 1, 1900. From 1914 on articles related to the war came to the front. After the war – owing to the loss of territory and to the deterioration of the general economic situation – the number of subscribers went decreasing, and in 1923 the journal was discontinued.

With the advent of photography and film-making, Uránia started presenting more and more Hungarian films. In 1930 a new period started in the life of Uránia: its name was changed, it became “UFA Palace”. After the end of World War II, it became the cinema of Sovexport. From April 2002 on its name is Uránia National Cinema, and it is the scene of gala nights and events of the film trade.

IMPACT OF THE COMMUNITY ALBERTFALVA ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUNGARIAN SOCIETY AND THE COUNTRY'S TECHNICAL PROGRESS

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The author gives a detailed description of the coming into being of the small community in the south of Budapest, its population, and the role it played in the Capital's life. The population consisted partly of immigrants from German territory, they were all engaged in the woodworking industry as carpenters or joiners.

THE LIST OF DIES (BEATING BLOCKS) OF THE FIRST HUNGARIAN FACTORY OF BURNT ENAMEL BADGES FROM 1935

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In her paper the author presents a bit of family history as the founder of the “First Hungarian Burnt Enamel, Cuff-Links and Badge Factory” (1899) was her grandfather. The factory’s seat was first in the outskirts of Budapest. Later the founder managed to acquire premises for his enterprise in the heart of the capital. The beating blocks were listed in systematic order by Mrs. Lajos Berényi, the founder’s daughter-in-law, and divided into 6 groups according to their destination.

ON THE ETHICAL PROBLEMS OF NANOTECHNOLOGY

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The author first gives several definitions of nanotechnology. (Nanotechnology deals with material [particles] in the order of 1-100 nm). Then he gives a list of the major fields of innovation of nanotechnology, speaks about its risks and, finally about some models of nanotechnology-policy.

Issues of the history of medicine

ILLUSTRATOR PHYSICIANS IN HUNGARY IN THE 19th CENTURY

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Among the works dealing with medicine, those on anatomy are the most richly illustrated ones. The 19th century brought about many new features in printing of books and other publications in Hungary. Litography and mainly photography were the new techniques that allowed to abundantly illustrate books of medicine with high quality reproductions. A number of physicians were talented in this respect, and illustrated their handbooks, textbooks or results of research with illustration made by their own hands. University lectures illustrated by spontaneously made drawings made understanding and memorizing of the material easier, and the lectures more interesting. The author mentions a number of physicians from Austria and Hungary that were masters of this “trade”.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BEGINNINGS OF MEDICAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN HUNGARY

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In our days photography is one of the most important tools of documentation in medicine. Its history goes back to about 140 years. Besides the photography of organs or parts of the body visible by the naked eye, from the end of the 19th century on photographing of micro-organisms through

the microscope became possible, too. Photography is very important in plastic surgery. A book on plastic surgery (of the nose) accompanied by an atlas – work of the outstanding Hungarian surgeon János Balassa – was illustrated by two physicians, professor Elfinger and professor Heitzmann. In the Semmelweis Museum of Medicine 21 photographs from the Balassa legacy made by two photographers seem to be samples of the drawings and lithographies that have appeared in the atlas. The author analyses this discovery in detail.

PRACTICABILITY AND AESTHETIC QUALITY – CHAPTERS FROM THE HISTORY OF MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS

Judit FORRAI

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The author gives an overview of the development of medical instruments from prehistoric times to our days. The chapters of the paper are as follows: 1. Formation of medical tools; materials of the primitive tools: organic matter, stone tools and metal tools. 2. Formation and “evolution” of instruments: early Middle Ages; Renaissance. 3. Medical instruments of the Modern Age: functions and use. Anatomy of the instruments: working head, shafts and handles, fixed shafts, materials of the instruments’ shafts. 4. Instrument holders: cases, boxes, kits. 5. Mass production of instruments.

BUILDING UP OF THE BUDAPEST FACULTY OF MEDICINE

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The author describes the state of the Pest Faculty of Medicine before the expansion. The expansion itself was carried out in two phases. The first phase took 23 years and lasted till the Millennium (1896). During this time the designs of 10 buildings were implemented. The second phase took 15 years, with 14 buildings erected. Three buildings were built on the “boundary” of the two phases. The result of the 38-year program was an up-to-date, well built-up institution for the training of physicians, which could stand comparison with similar ones in Western Europe.

FROM THE PAST OF OPHTHALMOLOGY – HISTORY OF THE ERZSÉBET HOSPITAL IN SOPRON AND OF ITS OPHTHALMOLOGY WARD

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In the first part of her paper the author gives an overview of the progress of ophthalmology, with special regard to the development in the west Hungarian town Sopron. In the second part she deals with the coming into being of the Erzsébet Hospital in Sopron. Its building started in 1910 but the process was slowed down owing to World War I. The decision of bringing into being an ophthalmology ward dated from 1926. During WW II the hospital was severely damaged. The reconstruction of the building of ophthalmology was finished as late as in 1950. In the third part of the paper we can read about outstanding ophthalmologists of the hospital.

FROM THE BLADDER HYPODERMIC TO INJECTION

Erzsébet KÓTYUK

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The author gives a richly illustrated overview of the history of injection and the tools developed for the purpose, from antiquity to our days.

HOSPITALS DESIGNED BY ALAJOS HAUSZMANN IN THE PAVILION SYSTEM

Katalin CZÁR

Semmelweis Orvostörténeti Múzeum, Könyvtár és Levéltár

The author first gives a brief survey of the styles in fashion in late 19th-century Hungary, i.e. eclecticism or “historicism”, then speaks about the necessity that emerged after Budapest had come into being as united capital of the country (1873). A tender was invited, and the winner, Alajos Hauszmann, one of the most appreciated architects of the epoch decided to build the hospitals in the pavilion system. He detailed his view in a “Study on hospital building”. The main characteristics of the hospitals built by Hauszmann are given in the paper.

MEDEA: MYTH AND BUILDINGS

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An attempt is made to confront the information available on the buildings related to Medea with the possibly complete myth about her, stressing the elements of the myth connected with medicine.

HISTORY OF THE INCUBATORS

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A richly illustrated review is given on the development of the incubators from the first one known that had been built in St. Petersburg to the “Isolette” designed by Charles C. Chapple, and presented in 1938. With the help of the incubators it is possible to save even babies born before term that weigh but 500 g.

ON THE TRAIL OF PAST FORMS OF MEDICAMENTS:
PAST AND PRESENT OF THE PREPARATION OF PILLS

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The author gives an insight into the preparation of pills from ancient times till the recent past. The paper is abundantly illustrated with the machinery used in pill preparation. Pills are one of the oldest forms of peroral dosing of medicine. From the beginning of the century its importance has gradually diminished so that in some countries their preparation in pharmacies has been stopped for hygienic reasons. The VIth Hungarian Pharmacopoeia (1967) has not even taken it up among its entries.

ROLE OF PLAYGROUNDS SAFETY IN PREVENTING CHILDREN ACCIDENTS

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Healthy, all-round evolution of upcoming generations is required to be ensured from national economic, health care, family protection, humanitarian and emotional aspects, too. Accidents – among them those suffered by children – occupy a notable place in morbidity and mortality statistics throughout Europe. The natural sites of activity in childhood are the playgrounds. An overwhelming majority of childhood accidents occur there, witnessed even by deficient (non-explored) statistics. Prevention of playground accidents can certainly be improved through greater attention, adequate planning, rational use of means available, and not the least by legislative measures, assurance of appropriate resources assigned to targets as well as by shaping of social awareness.