



Prof dr hab med. Józef Jankowiak

Professor Jankowiak was an outstanding Polish balneologist working in the years 1929-1984, the creator of Polish post-war balneology. The years 1939-1945, the time of the Second World War, destroyed the balneology that developed well earlier. The great revival of this field in the 1950s was due to the great activity and knowledge of Professor Jankowiak.

In 1955, Prof. Jankowiak created the Balneological Institute in Poznań. He developed indications and contraindications for thermal treatment. He restored the pre-war Polish Society for Balneology and Physical Medicine. For several terms, he served as the president of the board of this society.

Professor Jankowiak developed his scientific and publishing activity in balneology and physiotherapy. He was the editor-in-chief of two medical journals, which he founded: "Balneologia Polska" and "Wiadomości Uzdrowiskowe". He was the author of the textbook "Outline of Physiotherapy" whose first edition took place in 1939, the next three issues were published in 1946-1954. The following textbooks: "General Physiotherapy and Clinical Physiotherapy" (1968-1971) and "Clinical Balneology" (1978), the first in post-war Poland were known not only in Poland but also throughout Europe.

Professor Jankowiak obtained the title of professor in 1970. The professor published over 400 original, experimental and opinion papers in 18 journals in Poland and abroad, and published 17 textbooks from which knowledge of Polish balneologists' generations was derived.

He was a recognized international authority, he was the President of the International Association of Medical Hydrology for two terms. His name as a recognized scientist was in 1968 in "World Who is Who in Science" and in the 20 volume Brockhaus encyclopedia.

Short biography

He was born on January 20, 1904 in Germany in Duisburg Hamborn in the Rhineland to a family of Polish emigrants. In 1920, the Jankowiak family moved to Poznań, where in 1929 Józef Jankowiak graduated from medical studies at the Poznań University. He has completed numerous internships and foreign trainings in the field of balneology, including Berlin, Vienna and France. During World War II, he worked in the Physiotherapy Department in Warsaw. After the war, he moved to Poznań, where he took care of the reconstruction of the provincial specialist clinic, where he created a physiotherapy facility and then created the Balneological Institute in this facility.

Professor Jankowiak was not only a doctor but a great humanist and social worker. He knew fluently several foreign languages. Among other things, knowledge of Japanese language caused him to translate Japanese poetry into Polish. He performed many functions in related scientific societies. He was a member of the Scientific Council at the Minister of Health. He was an open, friendly people, valued by employees and associates. His 80th birthday was celebrated at the Balneological Institute in Poznań very solemnly. Unfortunately, shortly after the ceremony on October 14, 1984, after a short illness, he died. It was a great loss for the entire Thermal Medicine environment in Poland.