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Care for education of the young generation in the newspaper “Development” in years 1918-1933

Pedagogika Rodziny 3/2, 125-136

2013

Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

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CONCERN FOR THE UPBRINGING OF THE YOUNG GENERATION IN ‘THE DEVELOPMENT’ DAILY NEWSPAPER IN THE YEARS 1918-1933

Abstract: Article is historical. The author justifies the idea that interest in family issues, especially its failure phenomena has its historical roots. It tries to show the social status of the problem, zauważanego in Poland already in the interwar period. Against the background of attention to issues of health and education in the national press, the author tries to highlight outstanding contributions boat in this area, you may be making an exemplification of the care and education of children and youth in the pages of daily newspapers, including daily „development”. Articles published in the journal editors are a sign of understanding for the needs of youth and Lodz kind of chronicle of social tolerance in the form of projects undertaken by the inhabitants of Lodz on behalf of children and families in need of support.

Key-words: interwar period, Lodz newspaper, care and education

Interests of the representatives of pedagogical sciences from the interwar period in the issue of childcare may be perceived in, among other things, discovering the dependence which arises between the effects of upbringing and the conditions of family life of children and young people. The occurrence of this dependence was indicated to the Polish society by positivists. It was in their works, among others, where the problem of a child’s difficult situation emerged. They were the first to subject ‘mercy’ as a method of childcare to harsh criticism as it humiliates the child, does not eliminate the causes of their poverty and also derives the purposes of care not from the child’s needs but from faith imperatives or other motives.

The reflection of the ways in which childcare was developing during II RP may be found in numerous sources. These will be monographs of care institutions functioning in the period discussed, the views of pedagogy theorists (mainly social educators who made a particular contribution to undertake the problems of child-

care by pedagogy; Helena Radlińska, Maria Grzegorzewska, among others), theorists of social politics (Konstanty Krzczkowski, among others), in publications and practical activities of the people strongly connected with childcare (Janusz Korczak, Kazimierz Jeżewski, Józef Czesław Babicki, among others) and finally in the functioning of a number of care organizations and institutions working for the benefit of children (RGO, RTPD).

It is difficult to enumerate everyone who by means of their thought contributed to the development of a modern, rational, progressive and democratic idea of social upbringing – practicing educators and social activists who constituted the progress group and contributed to enriching methods of work with children who needed help. It is impossible not to mention experienced tutors, doctors and children's friends such as Mieczysław and Jerzy Michałowicz, Jan Bogdanowicz, Róża Kisielewska-Zawadzka, Jan Starczewski, Zofia Rosenblum, Stanisław Papuziński and many more. By their interests in the problems of care and analysis of reciprocal relations of upbringing and care, they all contributed to the development of various forms and methods of care and also enlightened the society as for the necessity to base the care system on general social guarantee. They were all combined by the mutual conviction that the child hurt by fate or fortune, by family, social or economic conditions is entitled, on equal terms with others, to full development, upbringing, education, health, and humane treatment.

To complete the image of achievements of Polish theory and practice of care in the interwar period, one needs to appreciate a wide range of interests of the press at that time in widely understood issues of help directed at children, being the expression of care for the fate of the young generation of Poles.

Polish nationwide specialized periodicals devoted to childcare were mainly interested in the childcare and upbringing issues and the life of children and young people in facilities. Among them there was "The Childcare" in which Cz. Babicki, W. Szuman, B. Krakowski, J. Korczak and many others published their articles since 1923. This magazine was, first of all, 'a speaker's platform' for the comments and statements of theorists and practitioners working in the field of childcare and education. Each issue of the periodical included also the chronicle of the functioning of childcare institutions and facilities in the country and abroad and a detailed review of books and periodicals raising the matters connected with the situation of a child and organizing childcare.

"The Social Review" – which was the organ of the Association of Care Societies for Jewish Orphans and always raised very current problems concerning facility upbringing in its pages. It conducted, among other things, interesting discussions whether "in a facility or in family". The review gathered a lot of outstanding doctors, psychologists and educators around, especially from the area of Lwów, where it was edited.

"The Social Guardian" was a magazine of a local nature, concerning the area of Warsaw. In particular issues in the years 1936-39 articles were published con-

cerning the realization of numerous, sometimes pioneer actions within social institutions and facilities, many reports from childcare establishments and actions of placing orphans in foster families. Some issues were completely devoted to more important actions or events, e.g. "Fight with alcoholism" 1937 nr 12; "Polish Nationwide Child's Convention" 1938 nr 9; "Preventive Vaccinations" 1939 nr 6.

"The Tutor" – a professional organ of tutors, originated from the initiative of tutors themselves and care organizers in emergency care institutions. A number of articles connected with everyday practice in the institutions, written by J. Cz. Babicki, W. Szuman, W. Kopciński, A. Kamiński, S. Papuziński, was published. The magazine also included a cycle of talks by Babicki about upbringing and a few of his month-long plans for childcare and educational work (1928 and 1929).

"Special School" was intended for both special schools teachers and emergency care facilities tutors. The authors of articles were mainly the employees of Special Pedagogy Institute such as professor M. Grzegorzewska, dr M. Grzywak-Kaczyńska, dr St. Kopczyński, dr W. Sterling, dr Natalia Han-Ilgiwicz. The credit of editorial staff is undoubtedly the fact that while popularizing modern methods of special pedagogy (including the method of work centres), they contributed to increasing the standard of didactic and childcare work in schools and facilities.

"The Group Upbringing" – published only in 1938 and 1939 by the Institute of Psychical Hygiene concerned the issues of group upbringing in childcare facilities, in holiday camps, in day-care rooms, and at school itself. Interesting descriptions of the work of group tutors, information about psychical health clinics open at that time, numerous briefs from work in childcare facilities based on children's good observation were published in this magazine. The publisher of the magazine – the Institute of Psychical Hygiene also published their Bulletin at the time. It was a quarterly devoted to psychical hygiene, children's psychiatry and therapeutic pedagogy.

The organization of childcare and educational facilities, the life of children there and implemented methods of work were written about not only in the nationwide periodicals, particularly dedicated to childcare.²⁰

²⁰ Prasa pedagogiczna i psychologiczna m.in.: Biuletyn Instytutu Higieny Psychicznej, Chowanna, Dom i Szkoła Powszechna, Kwartalnik Pedagogiczny, Kwartalnik Psychologiczny, Matka i Dziecko, Młoda Matka, Miesięcznik Pedagogiczny (wydawany w Cieszynie od 1918 roku), Oświat i Wychowanie, Praca Szkolna, Przegląd Pedagogiczny, Przyjaciel Szkoły, Roboty Ręczne, Rodzina i Dziecko, Ruch Pedagogiczny, Wychowanie Fizyczne, Wychowanie Przedszkolne, Wychowanie Zakładowe, Życie Szkoły.

Prasa lekarska:

Lekarz Polski, Medycyna Doświadczalna i Społeczna, Medycyna Społeczna, Medycyna Współczesna, Pediatria Polska, Pielęgniarka Polska, Zdrowie.

Prasa nauczycielska:

Głos Nauczycielski, Nauczyciel Głuchoniemych, Ognisko Nauczycielskie, Ogniskowiec.

Also regional press, in its pages, undertook analyses of local initiatives as regards the organization and care for orphan children.

The city of Łódź can be an excellent example of taking interest in the situation of children who needed help in its own premises.

The operations of the City's Management supported by the activeness of the local community coordinated frequently precursory initiatives undertaken for the benefit of children.

Łódź in the interwar period, as the first city in Poland, introduced general compulsory education in its region. It was also the place where the first Educational-Professional Centre in the country appeared. The first Juvenile Court which began to adjudicate in Poland was in Łódź as well as the first network of guardians for minors.

Whereas, regarding the care for an orphan child, Łódź developed the institution of foster families the earliest and most energetically in the country.

Thus, the press of Łódź joined intensely in its pages the trend of nationwide discussions concerning educational, pedagogical and care subjects [Jałmużna, 2/96].

Two periodicals "The School and Teacher" and "The Voice of Łódź Teachers" deserve particular attention as they undertook in their pages current matters connected with the problems of educational and care environment in Łódź.

"The School and Teacher" was a periodical devoted to the issues of upbringing and education as well as organizational life of Łódź teachers. It was published at the initiative of the Polish Teaching Union of General Schools and District Management of Łódź Trade Union of Polish Secondary Schools Teachers. The periodical was published for the first time in April 1924. The last issue appeared in January 1928. The first editor was Romuald Petrykowski and the editorial committee consisted of Klemens Bilski, Marian Dura, Władysław Gacki, Henryk Ochędalski.

The magazine undertook in its pages problems of school curriculums, didactic and educational process in schools and care establishments. A lot of space was also dedicated to interesting forms and methods of work in these facilities.

"The Voice of Łódź Teachers" was a monthly which appeared from January 1935 to June 1937. It undertook organizational and professional matters of teachers and tutors. In its articles it paid attention to the didactic role and educational function of teachers, it also encouraged this professional group to environmental activeness.

The periodical was the organ of District Management of Polish Teaching Trade Union in Łódź. Edmund Dutkiewicz and Jan Zaczek were the editors.

Prasa samorządowa:

Kwartalnik Samorządowy, Samorząd Miejski, Samorząd Terytorialny.

Prasa społeczna i prawnicza:

Antena, Archiwum Kryminologiczne, Głos Kobiet, Kobieta Współczesna, Praca i Opieka Społeczna, Robotnik, Świt i in.

Apart from the above mentioned periodicals, many more were published in Łódź: "The Teachers' Voice", "The Development", "The Family Centre", "Łodzianin", "The Little Freethinker", and many other.

Apart from teachers of Łódź, both theorists and practitioners, also well-known theorists of the Polish humanities wrote in the pages of above-mentioned magazines: Tadeusz Kotarbiński, Maria Lipska-Librachowa, Henryk Rowid.

These periodicals, out of concern for the future of the young generation, joined actively in the trend of nationwide discussion over the reform in education, undertook in their pages current problems of pedagogical theory and practice, also as regards care for a child deprived of the parents' care.

Undertaken issues exceeded the region of Łódź and had a significant impact on the development of Polish education and care pedagogy.

In general, in the years 1918-1939 in Łódź there were 14 periodicals published on the strict pedagogical subject matter, among others there were "The School and Teacher", "The Childcare Cooperation between Home and School", "The Link", "The Yearbook", "The Voice of Łódź Teachers". Current problems on the scope of pedagogical theory and practice both school as well as childcare and upbringing were undertaken in their pages. Some of them, like for instance "The Life of Young People" published, next to review articles, also beginning literary texts (poems, short stories) of the students from older classes of schools in Łódź, others, for example "The Link" educated parents in the scope of cooperation with school and proved its effectiveness by providing ready ideas in the form of examples.

The characteristic fact is that the pedagogical periodicals of Łódź had positive social opinions, both in Łódź and also in educational environments throughout the country, what can demonstrate the recognition of their high substantive level. They participated actively in the discussion about changing the educational system in the country and were involved in the discussions over subsequent projects of educational reform in independent Poland.

These periodicals had a permanent, however restricted circle of recipients since their subscribers were usually the readers interested in the specificity of social-educational issues.

Among periodicals appearing in Łódź during the interwar period contents connected with teaching, school or childcare can be found not only in pedagogical magazines.

Daily newspapers also constituted the source of current social-educational knowledge. Because of their popular, everyday character, they had larger social spectrum of influence as they came into the hands of non-specialized wide recipient.

An example of such a periodical may be "The Development" daily from Łódź, which, apart from everyday matters, raised in its pages the issues concerning school, upbringing and childcare, but also moral problems connected with the issue of bringing up the young generation.

“The Development”, as its subheading informs, was a political, industrial, economical, social, and literary daily paper. This newspaper, one out of many others, was published for a long time and its dividing lines were between December 1897 to August 1933.

During its long existence the daily was numerously suspended because of political reasons. For the first time it got suspended four times at the turn of 1907-1909 for about five months. Its activities were suspended for a longer period of time on the 7th December 1914 to resume its publishing in September 1918. At the end of 1931 the newspaper changed its name for “The Trend” [Garlicki 1999, p. 382]. Under this name the daily was published for almost two years, until the 26th August 1933 when it definitely closed its editorial office door.

Wiesława Kaszubina, in the book entitled “Bibliography of the Łódź press 1863-1944”, wrote that “The Development” was published every day except for Sundays and holidays, however, during the preliminary research, the author came across issues published on Sundays. The articles entitled “To municipalities and territorial Guardianship Councils” from Sunday, 1st December 1918 and “Collection for summer camps for children” from Sunday, 22nd April 1923 can be acknowledged as the confirmation. Each daily issue consisted of 4 up to 12 pages [Do gmin i miejscowych Rad Opiekuńczych, „Rozwój” 1918 nr 309, s.2; Zbiórka na kolonie letnie dla dzieci, „Rozwój” 1923 nr 118, s.6].

“The Development” was the second, after the fall of „Daily”, newspaper published in Łódź every day. It was established in January 1897 by a Warsaw historian and journalist Wiktor Czajewski and his brother, Tadeusz Czajewski, who were not only the magazine’s ideological founders, but also its editors. Since the beginning of its existence, the magazine was related to the right wing movement. However, during the interwar period, it was quite a loose, barely sympathizing relation and such opinions were presented by its journalists²¹.

As Wiesława Kaszubina claims, “The Development” in the interwar period gained crowds of readers thanks to whom its circulation achieved a few thousand while at the beginning of its publishing it was barely 400 copies.

Due to introducing reductions for workmen and also by inserting contents adapted to their interests, the newspaper won the hearts of this social class [Kaszubina, 1969, p. 46]. Among the supporters of „The Development” there was also young intelligentsia and people attached to pre-war, right wing vision of the city’s development, the one before new local government and socialistic orders [Tynecki, 1983, p. 272].

The editorial staff, apart from social matters, raised the issues of the current country and city politics, economy, and also, as stems from the subheading, the newspaper had literary aspirations.

²¹ Osoby piszące do „Rozwoju” nie sygnowały swoich artykułów, przez co nie można przypisać konkretnemu autorowi danej publikacji.

These aspirations, however, were reduced to including installments of foreign writers' works, translated to Polish, of such authors as: Rudyard Kipling or Antoni Czechow [Malanowicz, 1960, p. 214].

Trying to draw attention to educational needs of young people in the years 1918-1933, "The Development" newspaper included plenty of information, announcements and articles regarding the upbringing and education of children and young people, which were with regard to school as the key institution that except for its didactic function, should also perform a role of social support.

Preliminary research of the collected material allows to separate groups of problems which became the subject of a particular interest to the editorial staff.

Undoubtedly, the most important issues raised right after regaining independence were the subjects connected with ensuring widely understood financial support for school children.

It was observed in "The Development" that through the institution of school, it is possible to come to children's help when they need it.

In the face of recent war losses and spreading poverty, articles appeared informing about the necessity to increase the quantity of dinners served to poor students, initiating in its pages actions of collecting funds for subsidizing this undertaking. The authors also requested the municipality of Łódź to increase the subsidy for this purpose.

Within the framework of the action to support school children of modest means, the newspaper informed about summer camps for poor secondary school students. Head teachers were to provide the Welfare Department with lists of children from impecunious families, whom the school would qualify for sending to summer camps. The Welfare Department, after checking the veracity of data, acknowledged as appropriate to grant funds for summer camps to children from qualified families.

Also, in particular years, the newspaper published information concerning discounts for schoolchildren applicable for railway travels.

Articles, or rather announcements, about the ways to help children and their families (actions: 'coal' or warm clothes for winter) appeared in the paper through the whole time of its existence.

Thus, school, along with its didactic obligations, manifested itself as an institution performing also care functions towards students and their families [Z komisji rozdawnictwa obiadów, „Rozwój”, 1918 nr 312, s.3; Kto jada bezpłatne obiady, „Rozwój”, 1919 nr 210, s.4; O zaopatrzenie ludności w żywność, „Rozwój”, 1929 nr 76, s.7; Zbiórka na kolonie letnie dla dzieci, „Rozwój”, 1923 nr 118, s.6; Zwiększony ruch na kolejach, „Rozwój”, 1919 nr 33, s.3; Udogodnienia kolejowe, „Rozwój”, 1929 nr 180, s.4].

Another problem, monitored basically through the whole time of publishing activity of the magazine in the interwar period, directly connected with the fun-

damental obligation of school as an educational institution, was the issue of fulfilling compulsory schooling by the young generation of Łódź inhabitants. Łódź was the first city in the country that introduced compulsory schooling before the decree of 7th February 1919, as by the decision of local authorities it took place on 8th December 1918.

The daily informed about introducing compulsory schooling within the territory of the voivodeship of Łódź for children born after 1916 as well as for older ones – born in the years 1910-1915, who should attend schools in the school year 1922-1923.

The issue of compulsory school attendance and the ways of its fulfilling were continued in a series of articles between 1919 and 1926. Drawing attention, in the pages of the daily, to parents' appropriate supervision of this obligation and potential consequences arising from its negligence, is of particular interest. This fact was noted for the first time in 1926 [Obowiązek powszechnego nauczania, „Rozwój”, 1923 nr 170, s.2; O przymus szkolny w powiecie, „Rozwój”, 1926 nr 176, s.2].

Children who were born in 1919 had school obligation to perform, however, in articles from 1926 information appeared for the first time that parents who were not going to send their children to schools were obliged to declare in writing the way they would like their children to be educated – privately or publicly. On the other hand, parents who would neglect performing this obligation, would be forced to send their children to public schools and, in case of neglecting the child's compulsory schooling, they would be subject to criminal liability.

In the following years (1923-1932) the question of decreasing number of students attending classes in primary schools was frequently undertaken. It was stressed that, in comparison with the year 1921, the number of students systematically present during classes decreased significantly. Authors of the articles perceived the causes of such a situation in the fact that: “young people, instead of benefiting from the blessing of education, prefer playing truant [Zatrudnianie młodocianych, „Rozwój”, 1919 nr 184, s. 4].

The authors often emphasized that the obligation to enroll children for school rests not only on parents, but also on the juvenile's employer who, when hiring a young employee, should register him or her to schools [Młodociani palacze, „Rozwój”, 1930 nr 38, s.7].

Playing truant is not the only, close to our times, educational problem which teachers and parents of students in Łódź in the interwar period struggled with. On Tuesday, 11th February 1930 a text entitled “Juvenile smokers” appeared [Na oświatę ludową, „Rozwój”, 1926 nr 172, s.6; Dzieci mniej będą się uczyły, „Rozwój”, 1926 nr 177, s.7].

In this article the inhabitants of Łódź could read about a difficult problem of schools, namely, smoking tobacco among young people on the premises of school. The author informed that this practice takes place during school breaks, in the to-

illets. In connection with this fact, the Education Office ordered to display a notice about the harmfulness of smoking tobacco in all schools in Łódź. Additionally, the Education Office recommended organizing talks and lectures on the subject at least once for every six months.

Another problem which became the subject of particular interest for the editorial staff was a change in organizing classes, connected with the number of hours children spend at school and also with the need to take care of physical development of children and young people.

The newspaper informed that pursuant to a regulation of the Ministry of Education the number of studying hours at school was to be decreased. This regulation was undertaken to reduce the amount of time spent by children and young people at school without detriment to the curriculum and simultaneously to use the time outside the school building constructively [W walce o rozwój fizyczny młodzieży, „Rozwój”, 1926 nr 148, s.6; Młodzieży! Hartuj swe ciało, „Prąd”, 1932 nr 211, s.9].

The issue of physical development of young people was undertaken in the pages of “The Development” in the context of information about the Łódź convention, which took place on 13-15th May 1926, of teachers of gymnastics and physical development and school doctors who debated about propagating among young people the idea of physical education and also about adopting resolutions directed at popularizing physical education subjects at school.

Editorial staff continuing the matter of the necessity to propagate physical activity among young people published in the pages of the newspaper information concerning the organization of a “sports holiday” for young people and recommended to combine it with military training holiday. In the article dedicated to this issue, the author pointed out that the Ministry was going to introduce “a sports badge” to schools, which the students would be able to obtain for general physical and bodily improvement [Ku czci patrona młodzieży. Uroczystości związane ze świętem św. Stanisława, „Rozwój”, 1926 nr 296, s.6; Na oświatę patriotyczną, „Rozwój”, 1929 nr 184, s.4]. But, in the process of upbringing not only bodily development was important.

In the pages of the newspaper there were also articles undertaking a crucial aspect of the young generation’s development – care for their moral development. Presented articles were dedicated to introducing the profile of the patron saint of the young people of Łódź, St Stanislaw Kostka and accounts of the celebration connected with St Stanislaw Day which took place in Łódź every year on 5-13th November. We are able to find out what the schedule of the celebration, planned mutually by Department of Education and Diocese of Łódź, looked like. The articles informed that within celebrations in schools and churches there would be masses, celebrations for both young people and adults, talks, the film entitled “Towards the height” which presented the life and deeds of this saint would

also be projected. The profile of St Stanislaw was supposed to constitute a moral example for a young, sensitive Catholic, therefore, propagating this person and his deeds was supposed to be an important means of universal educational influence [Zaduszki, „Rozwój”, 1919 nr 312, s.2; Dzień zaduszny w szkołach, „Rozwój”, 1928 nr 309, s.4].

Also All Souls' Day was in the educational system the moment to implement the essence of moral upbringing. Annual participation of young people in services which took part on this day in churches, and in which students of primary and secondary schools took part, was the element of patriotic upbringing. After services young people along with military troops who were stationed in Łódź went the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where they deposited wreaths and bunches of flowers [Dzień oszczędności w szkołach, „Prąd”, 1932 nr 266, s.8; Powszechne oszczędzanie, „Prąd”, 1931 nr 264, s.6].

A significant element of shaping the sense of patriotism was also shaping the ability to be economical at young Polish people.

In the pages of “The Development” newspaper attention was drawn to this fundamental value in the process of moral and patriotic upbringing of young people, it was usually on the occasion of 24th October, the Saving Day in schools. In publications appearing on this occasion the importance of the ability to save money was demonstrated, both for particular individuals and for the interest of the whole society. On this day both in Łódź and in the whole country, to stress the importance of this problem, on all savings institutions national flags could be seen. Also nationwide press published articles propagating the general idea of saving, the radio transmitted programmes on the subject as well [Dzień oszczędności w szkołach, „Prąd”, 1932 nr 266, s.8; Powszechne oszczędzanie, „Prąd”, 1931 nr 264, s.6].

In the pages of “The Development” newspaper there were also publications concerning the evaluation of education level in schools of Łódź. It was the newspaper's expression of care for the young generation's level of education. Paragraphs, information and articles appearing at that time did not treat the educational system in flattering terms.

It was indicated that the educational system is too “loose”, there is too much freedom within it, young people are taught only the rudiments of knowledge and are not made aware of their social roles and duties they have to fulfill towards the society. School at the time was also accused of transmitting knowledge in a dry way with a lecture being a dominant form of passing knowledge, which children and young people do not absorb too well and which restricts students' direct involvement in lessons.

As a result of school's educational ineptitude, the author of one of publications cites a situation which I will quote: “In an overcrowded tram several boys from secondary school are sitting. In the transitional carriage a workwoman is standing

with a child on one arm and a basket with dinner for her husband on the other. Throng in the carriage gets worse, the child is jostled, (...) the soup is spilling (...). The poor woman gets nervous and angry while the boys studying "Pan Tadeusz", instead of giving her a seat tell crude, unrefined jokes on her subject." [Edukacja bez wychowania młodzieży. Problemy reformy szkolnictwa, „Rozwój” 1927, nr 106, s.4].

Drawing attention to the necessity of the high education level in schools and out of concern for students' good, the need for qualifications revision of primary school teachers was indicated and then conducted in Łódź by Regional Education Office. The surprising fact was that as a result of the inspection it turned out that about 100 working teachers did not have adequate qualifications, required at a particular position. The publications also informed that those teachers were going to be dismissed and people with proper professional preparation were going to be hired.

From preliminary research of the collected material and in due course of analyses, it arises that educational authorities of Łódź in the interwar period demonstrated significant care for versatile development of younger citizens. This care was also presented in the pages of "The Development" newspaper in the years 1918-1933.

There is a satisfactory fact that the issue of education and upbringing of young people integrated secular and church environments and widely understood social power saw the necessity to work on the full development of a child's personality. Great importance was attached to general fulfillment of compulsory schooling by young people, also as far as children's everyday attendance at lessons is concerned. Particular aspects of the educational process, both intellectual, through the care for the level of education of teachers working at schools and the issues connected with moral upbringing of young people, manifested in, among other things, organizing saint patron's days or saving campaigns, were considered equally important. The issue of young people's physical education was not ignored, either; it became the subject matter of attention for educational authorities not only in Łódź. Educational authorities were also interested in helping poor children in various ways (gratuitous dinners, departures for summer holidays, reductions for railway travels among other things).

The reflection of these tendencies can be found in the pages of "The Development" daily.

"The Development" was a newspaper which, as one of not numerous, appeared with interruptions in Łódź for 36 years. Such a long life and such a great number of sold copies of the newspaper²² can constitute a sufficient proof that the society

²² Otwartość redakcji na różnorodność podejmowanych problemów, przyczyniła się do wzrostu nakładu pisma z początkowej liczby 400 egzemplarzy (w roku 1918) do 3000 wydań jednego numeru (pod koniec 1932 roku).

of Łódź at that time liked the image of the newspaper suggested by its editorial staff consequently for years.

Everyday character of the newspaper provided the possibility of permanent impact upon the readers' awareness. Its universal reading – on account of the broad spectrum of undertaken issues, both of informative and social-educational character, contributed to the process of intellectualization of not only the inhabitants of Łódź, but also, due to its range, of the inhabitants of central Poland.

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