

History of the Faculty of Chemistry, Technical University, Brno

The development of both sciences and technologies in the 19th century was associated with increasing demands on technical education, which was provided by schools of engineering or polytechnic institutes. The foundation of Prague Polytechnic Institute by *F. J. Gerstner* was followed by the establishment of the Polytechnic Institute in Brno in 1849, which in 1873 was declared a Technical University with German as a teaching language, since at this time, Czech lands were a part of Austrian-Hungarian Empire.

The remarkable improvement of the quality of the technical education in Moravia was achieved by the foundation of the Czech Technical University in Brno in 1899, the first president of which was Professor *Karel Zahradník*. After several years of teaching in temporary buildings, the school year of 1911/1912 started on the new Campus in Veveří Street.

In 1907, the promising development in the fields of mechanical and civil engineering gave an impulse to the demand to establish a chemical field of study. The classes were opened in the old campus of the Technical University in Falkensteinerova and Augustinská Street in 1911.

The first professors appointed at the Faculty of Chemistry were PhMr. PhD. *Bohumil Kužma* (inorganic chemistry), Dipl. Eng. PhD. *Jan Novák* (analytical chemistry), PhMr. PhD. *Jiří Baborovský* (theoretical and physical chemistry), PhD. *Otakar Kallauner* (heavy industry of chemicals and silicates), and Dipl. Eng. PhD. *Cyril Krauz* (organic chemistry). The appointed professors claimed in Vienna the approval with the construction of the chemical pavilion, which was started as early as in 1914. The development of the Faculty and construction work was interrupted by the World War I.

After the war the chemical pavilion in Žižkova Street was finished and served mainly for technological disciplines. The professors of technological disciplines were appointed soon: Dipl. Eng. *Rudolf Vondráček* (fuels and metals), Dipl. Eng. *Václav Kubelka* (animal and plant tissues and technology of water), Dipl. Eng. *Vítězslav Veselý* (organic chemistry, fats, tars, dyestuffs), Dipl. Eng. PhD. *Jaroslav Matějka* (inorganic chemistry), Dipl. Eng. PhD. *František Ducháček* (fermentative industry), Dipl. Eng. *Aleš Linsbauer* (hydrocarbons).

In these years of full development of the school, following disciplines were lectured: saccharides and foodstuffs, wood, rubber, technology of textile, tannery and paper industry, dyestuffs, plastics, ceramics, and explosives. The study was perfected by the encyclopaedic lectures on technical microscopy, structural engineering, technical electrochemistry, and other subjects. It is necessary to remember further distinguished professors of the Faculty as *Antonín Jílek* (analytical chemistry), *Josef Velišek* and *Otakar Viktorin* (physics and physical chemistry), *Alois Wagner* and their younger successors *Z. Valtr*, *R. Domanský*, and *J. Vřeštál*. Professor *Kallauner* brought up ranks of research workers in the field of silicate technology: *J. Rosa*, *Z. Šauman*, *M. Matoušek*, *V. Lach*, *V. Šiške*, *E. Kanclíř*, and a lot of others. From Professor *Vondráček's* school must be remembered Professor *F. Perna* (gas manufacture), *V. Doležalík* (chemical engineering), and *J. Pelčík*. After Professor *Linsbauer* the field of foodstuffs industry found outstanding disciples in Professor *J. Dědek*, *D. Ivančenko*, and *J. Vašátko*. Professor *Josef Matějka* contributed significantly to the development of Czech brickmaking industry.

We should also remember the importance of the research institutions, which were founded by Professor *Kallauner* (State Institute of Silicates, later Research Institute of Building Materials), Professor *Veselý* (Research Institute of Fat Industry), Professor *Linsbauer* and Professor *Dědek* (Czech Research Institute of Sugar Industry), Professor *Kubelka* (State Research Institute of Tannery Industry).

The end of the World War II brought reopening of Czech universities, which were "temporarily" closed in the period of Nazi occupation. It was possible to start widely the new period of the development of the Faculty of Chemistry. Postwar enthusiasm and devotion of both academic and nonacademic staff and students of the Faculty contributed considerably to its rapid development. In autumn 1945, 669 students entered the school and this number increased to 874 in the school year of 1947/1948. The Faculty got over all the problems of postwar development and took on many specialists and scientists, who made it possible to start the chemical education in all branches needed in postwar reconstruction of Czech industry and economy.

In 1951, the whole Technical University of Brno was transformed into Military Technical Academy, where a few chemical specializations survived till 1958.

Thanks to Professor *Kallauner*, the technology of silicates was maintained at the newly established School of Civil Engineering, founded in 1951. This institution became a basis of the gradual extension of the technical school into further specializations and faculties. Beside Professor *Kallauner*, Professor *A. Wagner* contributed significantly to the establishment of the Institute of chemistry, technology of water, and environmental protection. These specializations became the basic disciplines of the newly established Faculty of Chemistry of the Technical University of Brno in 1992.

J. Brandstetr
Institute of Materials Chemistry,
Faculty of Chemistry,
Technical University,
CZ-637 00 Brno