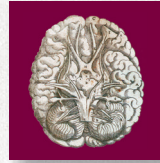




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ABSTRACTS OF THE 24TH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF THE NEUROSCIENCES

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The Disputes on Mental Hygiene and Eugenics in Vilnius and Lithuania in 1919 - 1939

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The aim of this study is to present the care of mentally ill as well as ideas of eugenics in a context of social hygiene movement in interwar Vilnius. We analyzed the primary sources, papers written by the medical doctors and hygienists practicing at that time, such as Kazimierz Karaffa-Korbitt, Aleksander Safarewicz, Kazimierz Pelczar, Adolf Falkowski, Danielius Alseika and others.

In Eastern Europe and Poland, as well as in Vilnius district, the eugenic ideas emerged naturally in a context of the new challenges of a health care system. The influence of World War I and progress in medicine made changes in health care organization. Social medicine was considered to be a priority line. Health education, pronatalism, interstructural cooperation, hygiene propaganda and other measures were the new tools that helped to create healthier society. However, among the challenges there was a relatively new problem of mental diseases. That type of diseases needed complex measures and solutions. Both social and biomedical means were discussed by Vilnius medical doctors.