The year 1899 can be regarded as the beginning of the production of medications for animals in the Polish territories, for it was then that biological preparations made at the Department of Hygiene of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków were first mentioned by the press. The interwar period saw the development of not only the veterinary and bioveterinary industry, but also legislation that regulated its functioning. Although very advanced for those times, those laws were also susceptible to different interpretations and could easily be circumvented. In 1939, there were 33 Polish companies producing synthetic preparations and 6 producing sera and vaccines. One serious problem of the Polish pharmaceutical industry was the deficiency of domestic investment capital. The foreign ownership of the pharmaceutical industry amounted to 30%. Polish serums and vaccines for humans and animals fully covered the country’s needs and represented the strongest branch of the domestic pharmaceutical industry (in 1939, the Polish production of medicines met 3/4 of domestic demand). The development of industrial pharmacy in Poland was stopped by the outbreak of the Second World War. Many buildings were destroyed already at the beginning of the war in 1939. Post-war years showed that the foundations of the Polish pharmaceutical industry (including its veterinary branch) were solid. Polish pharmaceutical companies mostly recovered and sometimes even expanded their productive potential after the war.

Keywords: history of the veterinary science, veterinary pharmacy, veterinary science, bioveterinary industry
Local drug manufacturers met a considerable portion of demand from practicing veterinarians, so even the smallest laboratories were very helpful in the treatment of animals.

The early development of the pharmaceutical industry in the Polish territories took place during the period of partitions, which significantly hampered its growth. The policies of the partition powers tended to restrict the expansion of Polish businesses. Three different legal systems existing in the Polish territories occupied by the three powers led to divergent interpretations of law after Poland’s independence was restored in 1918. This made it essential for the Polish government to unify the law and to pass new legislation for the regulation and monitoring of production. Unfortunately, especially with regard to veterinary preparations, the new regulations were not always clearly phrased (6, 13). As a result, in 1935 there were only 47 registered medications, and most preparations were produced without any licence. The lack of monitoring could have a negative effect on the quality of products. Formally, every producer had to hold a licence from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, but in practice, the SERO company in Kraków operated until 1931 solely on the basis of a letter of intent from the Ministry of Agriculture (11).

The development of veterinary pharmaceuticals was possible thanks to the commitment of a group of scientists and industrialists. The above-mentioned Prof. Odo Bujwid was foremost among them. Also from Kraków was Julian Nowak, founder of the SERO company, professor at the Jagiellonian University and Prime Minister of Poland. Nowak deserves great credit for reducing the occurrence of infectious diseases. After the restoration of independence, he was among the first to undertake the production of sera and vaccines, initially on the premises of the Jagiellonian University and later in his own facilities. He started production with his own capital and used personal income to equip the Department of Veterinary Medicine of the Jagiellonian University and to buy books for the academic library (11).

A large role in the creation of the Polish veterinary biological industry was played by Feliks Jaroszyński VS, head of the Serological Section of the PINGW in Puławy (5, 7). One of his first tasks was to fight rinderpest by organising and supervising the production of biological preparations. The campaign against rinderpest ended in complete success. Thanks to the work of Jaroszyński and others, Poland and Western Europe could continue to raise cattle. In 1935, the Serological Section of the PINGW became the Veterinary Department of the PINGW, headed by Dr. Kazimierz Zagrodzki, who worked with great energy to develop the department. The cost of the entire project was estimated at 5.7 million złotys. Thanks to the work of Dr. Zagrodzki, a refrigeration plant in Michałowka
was built and equipped with laboratory and production apparatus. He also initiated the construction of the current headquarters of the National Veterinary Institute. In Klawe’s company, the serum and vaccine production unit was run by Dr. Tadeusz Jastrzębski, who modelled it on a Czechoslovakian state serum and vaccine plant in Ivanovice na Hané (9).

The rise of the Polish pharmaceutical industry, including its veterinary component, was the accomplishment of several dozen small and large businesses, apothecary laboratories, manufacturers of galenic and veterinary biological preparations. The companies mentioned in this article paved the way for the development of industrial pharmaceuticals. Their activities were part of a general effort to develop domestic production of medications for animals based on materials and technologies developed in Poland. It was this goal, aside from economic benefits, that motivated scientists, industrialists and veterinarians involved in this process.

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Corresponding author: Jarosław Sobolewski, DVM, PhD, Centrum Weterynarii Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika w Toruniu, ul. Gagarina 7, 87-100 Toruń, Poland; e-mail: jsobolewski@umk.pl