

Letter to the Editor

Maria Skłodowska-Curie as a role model for Chinese youth in the year 2000

Sir,

I think that your readers, who will already know of *Nowotwory's Memorial Issue* to Maria Skłodowska-Curie [1] might like to be informed that Maria is still, in the year 2000, remembered in the Peoples' Republic of China [2]. Her photograph, Figure 1, appears in an article in the Chinese journal *Starting Life*, which is published to offer advice to young people leaving school or college to start in their first job. The article, entitled *At That Time She Was Only Maria*, ends in the year 1891 when Maria was only 24 years old, several years before her discovery of radium in December 1898. It tells of her early life and education and as well as Figure 1, also includes a photograph of Maria with her father and her sisters Bronya and Helena taken in 1890, Figure 2, and emphasises what an excellent role model she is for the young of the 21st century.

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References

1. Towpik E, Mould RF (eds.). *Maria Skłodowska-Curie Memorial Issue of the Polish Oncological Journal Nowotwory*, Warsaw: PFESO; 1998.
2. At that time she was only Maria, *Starting Life*, Janxi: Young Men's Publishing House, September 2000, 28-30.

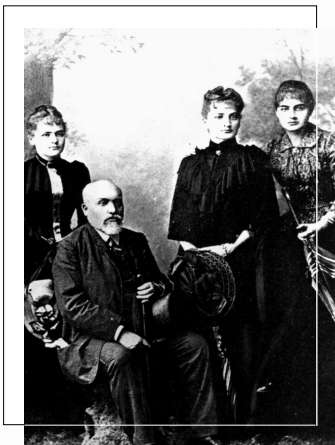


Fig. 1. Title column from *Starting Life* [2].

整个乡村愚昧的海洋，自己毫无能力、极其软弱。她开始思考自己的命运。她最希望能到法国求学。法国的声誉使她心驰神往，法国是爱护自由的，它尊重一切情操和信仰。

当玛妮雅站在窗前看着那些运甜菜到工厂去的牛车的时候，在柏林、维也纳、圣彼得堡、伦敦，有成千上万的青年正在上课或听演讲，或在实验室、博物馆、医院里工作；尤其是在那法国著名的索尔本大学，这时候有多少青年正在如饥似渴地学习生物学、数学、社会学、化学、物理。玛妮雅一想到这些，内心就充满了痛苦。自己真能有一天去巴黎吗？真能有这样大的福气吗？

12个月的郁闷的乡村生活，已经开始摧毁玛妮雅的梦想。她和一般19岁的女孩一样，心里很痛苦很失望：



斯可罗多夫斯基先生和他的三个女儿。1890年摄。自左至右，玛妮雅、布罗妮和海拉。

容易娶到当地门第最好而且最有钱的女子。他疯了么？

Fig. 2. Maria with her father and her sisters Bronya and Helena in 1890 [2].