

CORNERSTONES OF SERBIAN MEDICINE: DR MLADEN JANKOVIĆ

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ABSTRACT

Being chosen for the capital of Serbia (1818–1841), Kragujevac started developing rapidly. This progress continued with foundation of the Cannon Factory. The health situation was also beginning to improve as the first physicians came. The fourth District Physicus to come to Kragujevac at the end of 1861 was Dr Mladen Jankovic. Being noted for his activities and organizational skills, he was appointed the Physicus of the City of Belgrade. Prince Mihailo appointed him the Director of the Mental Hospital on April 28th, 1865. He went to Germany for a three-month professional training, where he acquired new and for that time modern knowledge. When he came back to Serbia he reorganized the Health Service and modernized treatment methods in order to meet European standards. He removed all the devices used to torture mental patients. He was the Director of the Mental Hospital until 1881. During that time he treated 314 patients. Dr Mladen Jankovic was one of the initiators of the Serbian Physician Society founded on April 22nd, 1872. He was elected the President of the Society in 1880 and retained this duty for almost eight years. He worked passionately: he published lots of studies, took part in the reform of the Health Service, collected materials from different areas of medicine, was a member of many committees, fought cholera in Sabac and Paracin, became the Head of the Health Service, set up the Hospital in Cupria. He was also active in diplomatic affairs – lifting the ban on import of our cattle to Austria-Hungary. In 1885 Dr Mladen Jankovic died of pneumonia at the age of 55.

Key words: history of medicine, famous people, mentors

SAŽETAK

Izborom za prestonicu Srbije (1818–1841) Kragujevac započinje svoj brzi uspon, koji se dalje nastavlja osnivanjem Topolivnice. To pogoduje i zdravstvenim prilikama, što se ogleda u dolasku prvih lekara. Četvrti okružni fizikus koji dolazi u Kragujevac krajem 1861. godine je Dr Mladen Janković. Zapažen zbog velike aktivnosti i organizacionih sposobnosti prelazi na dužnost fizikusa varoši Beograda. Tu ga 28. 4. 1865. god. Ukazom postavlja Knez Mihailo za Upravnika Duševne bolnice. Zbog usavršavanja odlazi u Nemačku na tri meseca, tamo usvaja znanja onog vremena a potom u Srbiji organizuje službu i način lečenja po evropskim standardima. Ukida sva tehnička pomagala kojima se realizovalo nasilje nad duševno obolelim licima. Sve do 1881. god. Upravnik je Duševne bolnice i u tom periodu lečio je 314 bolesnika. Dr Mladen Janković jedan je od osnivača Srpskog lekarskog društva osnovanog 22. aprila 1872. godine, a biran je i za njegovog predsednika 1880. god. i na toj funkciji ostao je skoro osam godina. Sagoreva u radu: intenzivno se bavi strukom i publikuje radove, učestvuje u reformi sanitetske službe, skuplja građu iz različitih oblasti medicine, učestvuje u radu mnogih komisija, bori se sa epidemijom kolere u Šapcu i Paraćinu, postaje Načelnik saniteta, osniva bolnicu u Čupriji, učestvuje i u diplomatskim poslovima skidajući zabranu uvoza naše stoke u Austrougarsku. Umire 1885. godine u 55. godini života od zapaljenja pluća.

Ključne reči: istorija medicine, istaknute ličnosti, mentori

Mihailo M. Obrenovic, Duke of Serbia, by the Grace of God and the Will of People, on suggestion of our Minister of Internal Affairs we appoint Physicus of the City of Belgrade, Dr Mladen Jankovic, a temporary Director and Physician of the Home for Mentally Ill People.

Tumultuous historical events in Serbia, and especially Sumadija, in the first half of the 19th century brought great prosperity to Kragujevac (1, 2).

The capital of Serbia for more than two decades (1818–1841), Kragujevac was the place where some of the most important institutions were established and some of the most important decisions paving the way for further prosperity of Serbia were reached. Besides Grammar School, Lyceum, theatre, printing company and the first court, on November 25th, the first pharmacy was opened and when the Garrison was formed in 1836, the Military Hospital was also built (3-6).

Even though Belgrade became the capital of Serbia, there was no decline in development of Kragujevac because the Cannon Factory started working (7, 8). The situation in the field of health was similar. At first, physicians like Kostantin Aleksandridi, Vito Romita, Bartolomeo Kunibert worked alongside with local doctors (called „hecimi“ and „kolojatri“) like Cir-Mana, her son Toma Konstantinovic or Havez Memed, but then the time and frequent contacts with Europe (through merchants



Figure 1. Dr Mladen Jankovic (1831-1885).

and craftsmen) together with the influence from the neighbouring Austria changed the approach to health. Among other things, Kragujevac got the District Physicus (4, 3, 9).

The first District Physicus was Herman Mainert. He was followed by famous Josif Pancic, and then by Ljuba Radivojevic. The fourth District Physicus was Mladen Jankovic (figure 1). He was a man of great organizational and administrative abilities and amazing energy, and as such, he left a deep mark in Serbian medicine (5).

He was born in Kanjiza in 1831. He left his Banat and moved to Szeged, where he finished the Hungarian Grammar School. Then he went to Pesta, where he graduated from the Faculty of Medicine in 1856. Having got his degree in Medicine, he moved to Serbia and became the Physicus of the District of Krusevac. It was not easy to get the title of Physicus at that time in Serbia, because they had to be „doctors of all the medical sciences...„But the need for such doctors was enormous, because contagious diseases and... hunger... and devastation“ were fierce in Serbia (3, 10, 11).

For these reasons, Dr Mladen Jankovic was urgently transferred to Jagodina, and having suppressed the disease and thus confirming his reputation, he was appointed the District Physicus of Kragujevac.

He came to Kragujevac at the end of 1861, although he received the official Decree on February 19th, 1862. The first prescriptions given by the new Physicus were registered the same year. The medications were prescribed to poor students of the Grammar School in Kragujevac and were issued at the pharmacy owned by Radosav Silic at the expense of the state (5).

Dr Mladen Jankovic was very diligent. In February of 1862, the Ministry was reported that Dr Mladen Jankovic succeeded in preventing the spread of cattle disease. The Item 14 of the „Instructions for Local Physicians and Physici“ obliged them to work in the Hospital in Kragujevac (founded on November 20th, 1860) but also to work on mineral waters, in jails and with food.

Mladen Jankovic came across many problems in Kragujevac: scarlet fever, typhus, smallpox (a few cases of variola). There is also a record of a death of a six-year-old child that climbed to pick cherries, fell and drowned in a barrel full of marc. In June of 1862, Dr Mladen Jankovic noted: „The District Hospital is in good condition and order.“

He was respected for his numerous professional activities. By the Decree of Prince Mihailo from April 28th he was released from the duty in Kragujevac. He had already been appointed Physicus of Belgrade, when, by the Decree from April 22th, 1865, Prince Mihailo (who was born in Kragujevac) appointed him the Director of the Mental Hospital. The Management of the Health Department realized that they needed a highly qualified person for this job, therefore, in 1865, Dr Mladen Jankovic was sent to Germany for a three-month medical professional training. At that time the leading expert in psychiatry was Dr Wilhelm Grizinger. Dr Jankovic acquired the knowledge of psychiatry very quickly and

he also learnt about organizational structure of mental institutions. Being interested and motivated, he worked hard and became an expert. This became obvious when he returned – the Department became well organized and the treatment met the European standards. All torture devices - triple whip, torture chair, and scourge - that were used to torture mentally ill people were removed from the hospital. Only the shirt that was used for the most dangerous and disturbed patient was kept. Dr Mladen Jankovic remained on this duty for 16 years - till 1881. The director, physician and founder of the Department of Psychiatry in Serbia did his job with a great sense of organization. In the Home for Mentally Ill People, 314 people were treated at that time - 218 males and 96 females. This can be considered the beginning of the treatment of mentally ill patients (12-16).

Dr Mladen Jankovic was one of the founders of the Serbian Society of Physicians, founded on April 22th, 1872. Out of six meetings of the most eminent people, Dr Mladen Jankovic was present at the second one concerning the setting up of a journal. At this occasion he announced his joining the League of the Serbian Society of Physicians. Being renowned and respected, he was, by secret ballot, elected President of the Serbian Society of Physicians at the main annual meeting on October 23th, 1873. Having shown good organizational skills again, he was re-elected President of the Serbian Society of Physicians on January 13th, 1880. Dr Mladen Jankovic was the President of the Serbian Society of Physicians for almost eight years (17-20).

He set guidelines and had a great influence on people who worked in hospitals, private surgeries and on people who attended conferences of that time. At the meetings of the Serbian Society of Physicians, he did not miss a chance to report on characteristic cases from his practice. For example he reported on his work on diphtheria on both tonsils and measles in this area. He also reported on a case of a boy with a complete clinical picture of lyssa although the boy was not in contact with a dog. He also described rare and specific cases from his surgical practice.

He was respected and appreciated. As Dr Vladan Djordjevic suggested, Dr Klinkovski, Dr Valente, Dr Djordjevic and Dr Jankovic were elected for the Council that was in charge of collecting material on the Serbian Folk Medicine. A lot of data from different areas were collected. This served as the basis for the Law on Preservation of Health. Dr Mladen Jankovic was the first one signed in all the reports on gathered information (18-22).

Dr Mladen Jankovic published several papers on administration and organization: About Spas - Ribarska and Vrnjacka, the Health of the People, 1884; Report on cases of White Spot Syndrome written together with Dr Klinkovski, the Serbian Archive, 1881; Report of the Medical Facilities Supervisor to the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Public Health, 1882; Headache, the Serbian Archive, 1879. Dr Mladen Jankovic was a man of numerous interests. He was the President of the Committee in charge of the reform in the Health Service. He was the

President of the Committee that made a proposal of the Law on Education of Mid-wives and Medical Assistants as well as on the Bylaw concerning legal regulation of prostitution. He participated in creation of the Law on Mentally Ill People. Among other things, he recommended having priests in mental hospitals as personnel (17, 23).

Dr Mladen Jankovic fought cholera in Sabac and Paracin. After he had stopped working in the Home for Mentally Ill People, he became a supervisor of the Health Service. As a supervisor he managed to reform eight district hospitals.

The crown of his career was his appointment for the Head of Health Service at the Ministry of Internal Affairs in 1884. He was also active in the field of diplomacy – he travelled to Pesta and succeeded in lifting a ban on export of our cattle to Austria.

Thanks to the efforts he made and his personal commitment the first civil hospital was opened in Cuprija in 1881 (24-29).

This erudite man was loved and respected for his temperance and manners, for his dedication to work and sense for organization, which all made him a great authority in the eyes of his contemporaries.

In the autumn of 1884 he travelled to Austria regarding the ban on import of cattle from our country due to foul-foot disease. Coming back from Austria he got a fever. Nevertheless, he continued working which made him even more exhausted. He died of pneumonia in 1885 at the age of 55 (11, 28, 29).

The premature end of this man of a great importance for health of the Serbian people was by all means a great loss for the growing number of young and educated people and scholars in Serbia of that time.

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