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# HISTORY OF MEDICAL MUSEUMS IN BELARUS

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Grodno Medical Academy was the first higher educational institution to train physicians on the territory of Belarus. At the Academy, the first dissecting room, Anatomy Museum, Natural History Museum, Scientific Medical Library and Botanical Garden were founded. Teaching was practical and it was conducted in clinics. Students studied anatomy, collected minerals and herbaria, worked in the drugstore and clinics. The founder of the Academy was a French scientist G.E. Gilibert (1741-1814). He was the first to perform a microscopical examination and he was considered to be the founder of scientific phytology. The Anatomy Museum's collections were used as teaching aids at the Grodno Midwifery School (1876-1914). The Grodno midwifery and obstetric feldsher schools trained registered specialists. Initially the period of studies was 2 years and later it was 4 years. Teachers at these schools had Doctor of Medicine degrees. More than 20 subjects were taught. Teaching took place in the maternity home, the hospital, and the drugstore. About 700 midwives and obstetric nurses were trained to work mainly in rural areas. For many years, the head of the school was the physician K.S. Kemarsky.

In the second half of the 19th century, several medical societies were founded (Mogilev, 1862; Minsk, 1867; and Grodno, 1869). The presentations of medical societies and medical treatment facilities at the International Hygiene Exhibition in Dresden, Germany (1911) gave rise to museum management studies in Belarus (1912). In July 1916, the Vitebsk gubernia's municipal council founded the Museum of Hygiene and Infectious Diseases Control.

In the 1920s the prevalence of certain infectious diseases

determined the contents of agitation and propaganda. Houses of health education (Gomel, 1920) conducted sanitary hygienic propaganda that contributed to the enrichment of the Medical Museum's collections. In 1941, the official establishment of the first Medical Museum was announced. But fascist aggression hindered its activity. G.R. Krjuchok (1918-1987) was the first to teach History of Medicine in Belarus (1949). He also organized the collection of and the scientific processing of materials that were exhibited in the lecture rooms of Minsk Medical Institute (1950-1980). In subsequent years these materials provided the basis for the Republican Museum of History of Medicine in Belarus (1992). The Republican Museum of History of Medicine in Belarus houses more than 35,000 objects, conducts scientific research, and organizes exhibitions. The exhibitions are organized chronologically, from antiquity to modernity. The Museum contains original materials, written sources, and photos. In the 1980s, in the Mogilev House of Health Education, as well as in Berestovitsa, physicians initiated the establishment of the Museum of History of Regional Health Care. In 1983, the museum at Grodno Medical Institute was opened (in 2007, a new exhibition was introduced).

In 1987, health care workers raised a question about the opening of a pharmacy museum. The first and only Pharmacy Museum in Belarus was established in the building of the old Farny Pharmacy (1687), which now belongs to the company "Biotest". The exhibition represents the arrangement and functions of the drugstore: drug raw materials storage, production and delivery of medications. Drugstore ware, devices, instruments, books, and photos are exhibited. The herbaria pictures by E. Ozheshko are particularly valuable. The history of the drugstore in Grodno is the history of the pharmacists who worked in it (I. Adamovich, S. Razvadovsky, K. Stefanovsky, E. Stempnjavsky). Polish pharmacists, Dr. Jan Maevski and Prof. Słavoi Kuharski, contributed a number of artifacts to the Pharmacy Museum in Grodno.

At the beginning of the 21th century, such historical events as anniversaries of hospitals, universities and scientists contribute to the increasing interest in the development of museums. In 2008, in the Grodno Perinatal Centre, an Obstetrics Museum was opened.

One can state that the development of medicine and pharmacy is represented in the displays of the history and culture museums of Belarus.