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The first pharmacy in Burgas, Bulgaria

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Abstract

The interest towards historic roots of medicine and drug service in our country has always been great. The first historian of pharmacy, Mag. Pharm. Kiril Nikolchev published a book, "Materials on History of Pharmacy in Bulgaria" in 1929, in Sofia, and this is the only significant work on this subject until then. The present study is a part of a dissertation on "The emergence and development of the medical services of the population in the district of Burgas". It should contribute directly to the specific objective of establishing who opened the first pharmacy in Burgas, and when, and should contribute to the pharmacy service organisation in the town. The method of historical analysis is used.

Keywords: first pharmacy, pharmacy regulation, drug legislation, Burgas, medical services

1. Introduction

Bulgaria has 1336 years of history as a state. During the period 1394-1878 the country was within the Ottoman Empire. The Berlin Treaty of 1878, separates San Stefano Bulgaria into two parts - the Principality of Bulgaria and Eastern Rumelia, where the Burgas County remained in Eastern Rumelia. The unification of the Principality of Bulgaria with Eastern Rumelia in 1885 unified the administrative authorities in both areas and created the Burgas District. Today, it occupies the largest part of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast - from Obzor to the mouth of Rezovska River. Today Burgas, the capital city of the region, is the fourth largest city in Bulgaria and is currently considered the best city to live in.

Until the Liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottoman yoke in Burgas County there was no regulated pharmacy. The population was healed by folk healers and by the ahtars - retailers, drug sellers. On the memories of Lubomir Zurkov, son of Iliya Zurkov and first director of State Pharmaiy Organisation, branch Burgas, during the liberation of Burgas (7.II.1878) there were two ahtars: Peter Kalkandjiev and one Greek. The first doctor in Burgas, Dr. Nader, supplied medicines from some of the Tsarigrad pharmacies and sold them at his own expense at varying prices. He was also familiar with the Bulgarian ahtars who have performed some of his recipes ^[1].

The emergence and development of the first pharmacy in Burgas

The first private pharmacy in Burgas was opened by Peter Kalkandjiev in 1879 or 1880. Ivan Slavov provided very important data in 1961, regarding Kalkandjiev and his pharmacy. Slavov was married to Vasilka Kalkandjieva, who was the granddaughter of Todorka Kalkandjieva Pramatarova, the heiress to the pharmacy. Below, we have also set out additions to the data he provided ^[2].

Peter Yovchev Kalkandjiev was the founder of the first pharmacy in Burgas. He was born on July 25, 1845, in the town of Malko Tarnovo. As an inquisitive Bulgarian youth, he went to Constantinople where, according to his relatives, he studied at a medical school. It must be assumed that this was a school of medicine and pharmacy called Jerahane, later renamed by Sultan Mahmoud II as the Tophane Medical School, because in preserved archival materials ^[3].
⁴⁾ Peter Kalkandjiev is referred to as a pharmacist. Armed with good medical knowledge for that time, he returned to Bulgaria and opened an ahtarnica in Burgas because there was still no legal basis for opening a regulated pharmacy.

After the liberation from the Ottomans, pharmacies in our country were restructured according to the Russian type of pharmacy. The concession pharmacy system was originally considered to be personal, with inheritance and marketability rights, and later personal with limited rights. According to the provisions of the First Sanitary Law "Temporary Rules...", which came into force on February 1, 1879, it can be assumed that he established his pharmacy most probably in 1879, when there are legal grounds for its registration ^[5].

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The exact year cannot be indicated due to lack of evidence as the archival materials of that period were destroyed in fires. In support of our assumption are the following preserved archival materials and documents:

On a preserved family photograph, given with the inscription "For a memory" of a relative in Varna, on the back is written: "First January 1881 Peter Kalkandjiev - pharmacist." From here it can be judged that the pharmacy was opened not later than 1880 [3].

The title of the Price List, owned by P. Kalkandjiev, is: "Price List of Medicines, Sellable to Pharmacies in East Rumelia in 1881". On the second page of the cover, on white paper, read the following inscription: "№175 - Mr. Petru Kalkandjiev - Burgas" [4].



Fig 1: P. Kalkandjiev and his wife

The pharmacy was housed in a two-story building on the site of the later-built Burgas municipality / old municipality, which is now demolished. In 1887, P. Kalkandjiev entered into a partnership with the pharmacist Ivan Tomayidis as they founded the "Central Pharmacy". In 1895, P. Kalkandjiev died. Ivan Tomayidis attempted to keep the pharmacy in his name, but according to the then Public Health Protection Act, the concession for the operation of the pharmacy was acquired by the heirs of Peter Yovchev Kalkandjiev and the pharmacy obtained the company name "Pharmacy Kalkandjiev-Heirs".

The heirs who did not have a pharmaceutical education attracted Ivan Tomayidis as a manager, and the pharmacy, which was already located in the lower southeast corner of the newly built municipality / old municipality continued to work until 17 August 1899. Ignition of a large amount of gas from an unsupervised young laboratory technician exploded and caused a fire that burned down everything in the pharmacy. In this fire, the first son of the heiress Todorka K. Pramatarova died at the age of 15. After this incident, Ivan Tomayidis went to Greece.



Fig 2: Family picture of P. Kalkandjiev

After the fire in 1890, the heirs, having the concession law, attracted as a partner the reserve Colonel Lazar Obreshkov, who financed the rehabilitation of the pharmacy, and Iliya Zurkov, who came to Burgas as a young master for the pharmacy manager. The pharmacy itself is located on 65, Aleksandrovska Str., opposite Bezistena, now Bazaar.

In 1908, Zurkov and Obreshkov left the pharmacy and opened Drugstore Zurkov. The pharmacy continued to operate under the same company: Pharmacy Kalkandjiev - heirs, as Todorka K. Pramatarova hired new pharmacists as managers. Thus governors were Stefan Andreev, followed by Croat Hintlian. During the First World War, Hintlian was mobilized and the assistant pharmacist Elena Dimova-Mirincheva was appointed as manager. During the war, due to the mobilization of pharmacists, pharmacy managers were allowed to employ assistant pharmacists.

Elena Myrincheva was born in 1895 in the town of Tsaribrod, Yugoslavia, now Dimitrovgrad. She was entitled as an assistant pharmacist in 1916. From professional interest we quote her certificate of competence, issued in Bulgarian and in Latin. The Bulgarian text is: "CERTIFICATE №1882

According to the decision of the Supreme Medical Council on March 7, 1916, based on the protocol of the Commission for Testing of Pharmacist Students, the Directorate for Public Health Protection gives the present certificate to ELENA DIMOVA for a certificate that she is asserted as an "assistant-pharmacist".

Sofia, March 29, 1916

Director: not readable

Chief of Pharmacy Department: P. Todorov

Secretary: not readable " [6].



Fig 3: Elena Mirincheva

After the end of the war, Hintlian again took over the management of the pharmacy and worked as a manager until obtaining a concession in Plovdiv. Following were the governors Sarkis Sarkizov and Krum Karadzhov from Varna. In 1928 the pharmacy was bought by Mikhail Raychev Devetakov and started operating under the name of Pharmacy Mihail Raichev. Mihail Raichev Devetakov was born on August 6, 1893, in the village of Kilifarevo, Veliko Tarnovo. He received his secondary education in Veliko Tarnovo, and he graduated in pharmacy in Vienna, Austria, in 1922. After graduation he returned to Bulgaria and worked as a pharmacist in Pazardjik, Veliko Tarnovo and Tryavna. In 1928, he opened his own pharmacy in 65 Aleksandrovska Street in Burgas, where he worked until his nationalization on April 27, 1949, and the pharmacy started functioning as State

Pharmacy No. 6 with the manager M. Raichev ^[7]



Fig 4: Mihail Raichev

4. Conclusions

The opening of regulated pharmacies in Burgas began only after the Liberation. Until their nationalization in the period 1947-49, 7 private concession pharmacies were opened and operated in the city. The first pharmacy was owned by the pharmacist Peter Kalkandjiev, who graduated the Tsarigrad Medical School. Initially, he opened an ahtarnica, but after the adoption of the first sanitary law in 1879, the third section of which was called the Pharmacy Statute, regulated the requirements for the opening of pharmacies, he received a concession for possession of the first pharmacy in Burgas.

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1. Memories of Lubomir Zurkov
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6. Direction for protection of public health, Certificate № 1882 of Elena Dimova for degree, assistant-pharmacist from 29 March 1916
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