FEW ASPECTS OF MILITARY PHARMACY IN HUNGARY DURING THE 1ST, WORLD WAR

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A sight into a laboratory of a military pharmacy. We may realize that all the signatures, bottles, spoon and other specific pharmacy equipments in this photo might be used even nowadays to prepare medicines).

This Year, 2013. is outstanding in the history of ICHP, as the 41st Conference is dedicated to the memory of the great army pharmacist, A. Parmentier, who was a real "polyhistor" and died 200 years ago. The French Society of the History of Pharmacy - the first one of its kind in the world - also celebrates its 100 years' anniversary of the foundation (1913).

If we look back, 100 years ago Europe was "in big hurry", as the wind of the forthcoming "Great War" was remarkable... According to Parmentier's scientific heritage, proper public health of the Army was also an essential task to organize; aiming maintenance and recovery of soldiers' fighting value.

As a new sequence of my ICHP lectures dealing with Military Pharmacy, I present here some new aspects of the Hungarian Military Pharmacy within the territory of the former Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy. I also focus on some interesting documents deriving from the former Epidemic and Isolation Hospital of the Hungarian Royal Army in Kassa (Kosice), where my Grandfather was also serving as military pharmacist.

From the aspect of the Health Care, it must be emphasized:

This War was the first time in the history of Humankind that millions of Soldiers were on the battlefields at the same time.

As the war seemed to be more and more serious; with many dead and injured, infected soldiers; the leaders realized and evaluated the role and importance of the Military Health Care.

The Military Health Institutes established during the World War I. aimed maintenance and recovery of soldiers' fighting value.

The Hungarian sanitary institutions proved to be rather successful.

-permanent sanitary institutes

- 2 types of Military Health Care Institutes:
- -temporary sanitary institutes
- · worked only in case of mobilization
- · hospital trains

- · the garnison hospitals,
- · troop and military (honvéd) hospitals
- · and houses for invalids

In the arrangement of the Sanitary Institutes not the distance was taken into consideration, but the possibility of transport of wounded.



My Grundfather, Mihály Szalay as cist-licturant stands next to the doctor in

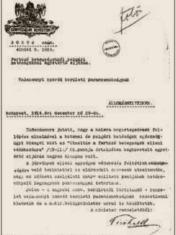
The number of the Hungarian Military Pharmacists in the 1st World War was approximately two-hundred-fifty (250). They were also very important officers of the Military Sanitary Corps.

The base of the so-called Imperial and Royal pharmacist officials were the reservist young pharmacists, as members of the I Year voluntary system.

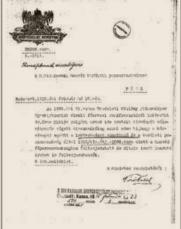
The education of the military pharmacist officers consisted of two parts.

The theoretical education dealt with the military regulations;

and the elements of the practical ones were some specialized military tasks as well as office works.



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Document from the Ministry of Defence, 28th Decem-ber, 1914, Budapest, Humgary – Rules on how to cooperate with the civil agencies in case of choiera epidemic

sent from the Archives of the Military Pharmacy in Kassa (Kosice);

A list of pharmacists for military pharmacy service

Document from the Archives of the Military Hospital in Kassa (Kosice); 23rd February, 1915.

Document from the Archives of the Military Hospital in Kass (Kosice) – Poles seguinst Veneral Diseases; 27th May, 1915

As a conclusion, about 100 years after the 1st World War, we can admire our professional ancestors' knowledge, good organizational structure of the hierarchy and even ingenuity to get across difficult situations, wartime circumstances.

I dedicate this poster to the memory of Mihály Szalay, my Grandfather; who also served as pharmacist-officer (lietunant) from 1914 till the end of the War.

The descendants' task is to remember to the ancestors and keep their heritage.

Let me tribute this lecture for all the military pharmacists working under warlike circumstances in the past and even today.

rces of this poster presentation derive from the Semmelweis Museum, Library and Archives of the History of Medicine, Buda pest and Archives and Library of the Institute for Military History, Budapest, Hungary; as well as Family Heritage.



Document from the Archives of the Military
Pharmacy in Kassa (Kosice);
June, 1915. – regarding military pharmacy service