

## FOUNDING OF THE DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN NIS

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After the liberation of Nis from the Turks which took place on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1878, there were two military hospitals: one was next to The Skull Tower and the other on the road to Leskovac and there was Islahana the civil institution which was not the forerunner of the district hospital in Nis. At first, they founded the military hospital in Nis in 1878 and then they founded The District Hospital on July 17<sup>th</sup> in 1881. The first director of the District hospital was Anton Zajicek. He is also the first graduated medical doctor in Nis. The District Hospital was situated on the left bank of the River Nisava in a private house. *Acta Medica Medianae* 2007;46(1):56-57.

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"If people have no past, they have no future". (1)

The Clinical Centre in Nis has its past: rich, flourishing and diverse. (2)

It is always worth mentioning!

After the liberation of Nis from the Turks that took place on January 11<sup>th</sup> 1878, there were two military hospitals: one was next to The Skull Tower and the other on the road to Leskovac, at the foot of the hill Gorica. (3,4)

There were two pharmacies: owned by Djordje Blesides and Dimitrije Fredic, who were denied both as pharmacists and "doctors". (5)

Djordje Blesides, as a conspirator, was respected – being the only foreigner of 34 conspirators with avant-garde ideas, lead by Nikola Rasic – prepared the liberation of Nis in 1874 (6,7,8,9,10)

Islahana was founded by Midhad pasha; the most intelligent commander of all in the pashadom. (11,12,13) Islahana was wrapped in mystery and was already there after the liberation of Nis.

It had several roles over time: educational, trade and hospital centre. (11)

It is sure that Islahana was not the forerunner of The District Hospital in Nis. (2,3)

Serbian authorities organized medical institutions in Nis following certain order.

Dr. Vladan Djordjevic who was the commander of the medical corps in the headquarters reported to the commander of the head-

quarters that there is the need to found a big military hospital for 1000 patients and wounded ones. (14,15,16,17)

The importance of the Military hospital came from the strategic conceptions of the Serbian Army!

Then came the turn of the District Hospital.

At the very beginning it was completely "insufficient". (18)

Ministry of inner affairs of Serbia ordered its inspector Dr. M. Jankovic on January 15<sup>th</sup> 1881 "to take an urgent trip to Nis, Prokuplje, Knjazevac, Pirot, Vranje, Loznica and Cuprija and to set and organize district hospitals. Being authorized to perform all operations according to the law and medical corps budget he performed all actions to found the above mentioned hospitals..."(18,19).

It was most difficult to open the district hospital in Nis (2,3).

Dr. M. Jankovic arrived in Nis on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1881 and "reported to the district commander and required to be ordered to the Municipal Court to find all houses that could be turned into hospitals". (18)

He inspected all the houses on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup> 1881. (3)

On July 6<sup>th</sup> he reported the following: "...I agreed with certain Andon to rent his house because it was the most appropriate of all. There were nine spacious rooms, three small chambers, many rooms for various purposes in the hospital and there were enough room for forty patients. We agreed on the rent – ten ducats per month. I ordered to have a contract done, reparation organized and medical staff prepared..."(18).

The house is on the left bank of the river Nisava, above the town park and the former Officer Club (20).

We made an agreement with director of the jail "...to have the carpentry work for the hospital organized" (18).

We secured the hospital staff (two medical nurses, one help made and one cook) (3).

"The main responsibility was given to the medical assistant and the man in charge of supplies." (18).

Jovan Pambukovic was operating at this position for a long time. (2)

The first graduated medical doctor in Nis Anton Zajicek was the first director of the District hospital in Nis (18).

According to the Law on medical corps line of business and preservation of public health from March 30<sup>th</sup> 1881, District Hospital in Nis had to provide the following: stamp with the court of arms, a box with surgical instruments, obstetrics equipment, pocket instruments, Esmarich constrictor, supplies for disinfection of water with chlor, vaginal utensils, tooth pliers, Pravovarc sprinkles, one box with instruments for obduction, a box with medicaments, utensils for drawing blood, tea pot, clysters, irrigator syringe

with various additions, kidney pot, thermometer, sponges, towels and supports (18).

A book on work regulations was made.

Having everything prepared, the first patients of the District hospital in Nis were admitted on July 17<sup>th</sup> 1881. (18)

At first, the District Hospital was sanctuary for "prostitutes who suffered from venereal diseases and patients who suffered from tuberculosis". (12)

The sick people were admitted after presenting the certificate on their real estate ownership. The medical corps fund was used to cover the costs of the patients who were poor, and for those who suffered from syphilis there was no need for any certificate.

Before World War I this hospital was under the jurisdiction of the Ministry in Inner Affairs of Serbia. (2)

After that the hospital was developing and flourishing in successes until finally the name was changed. After some time, there appeared the Faculty of Medicine - a huge step toward formation of the Clinical Centre in Nis!

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## OSNI VANJE OKRUŽNE BOLNICE U NIŠU

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Pri oslobođanju Niša od Turaka 11. januara 1878. godine zatečene su dve vojne bolnice: kraj Čele Kule i na leskovačkom drumu, i Islahana, civilna ustanova koja nije preteča Okružne bolnice. Najpre je u Nišu formirana Vojna bolnica 1878. godine, a 17. jula 1881. godine osnovana je i Okružna bolnica. Prvi upravnik Okružne bolnice bio je Anton Zajicek – on je ujedno i prvi diplomirani lekar Niša. Okružna bolnica nalazila se na levoj obali Nišave, u privatnoj kući. *Acta Medica Medianae 2007; 46(1):56-57.*

**Ključne reči:** osnivanje Okružne bolnice, prvi upravnik, Anton Zajicek