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The Role of Independent Medical Community in the Development of Health Care institutions in Russia (1860–1917)

Since the 17th century the organization of medical care in Russia mostly belonged to state authority. The emergence of an independent professional medical community in Russia capable to be a significant social force began in the second half of the 19th century. The first and most obvious factor of its appearance was substantial growth of the number of students in higher medical educational institutions during the entire 19th century and, consequently, the number of certified Russian-speaking doctors. Graduates of universities' medical faculties started to be engaged in private medical practice what led to increase in the physicians' material welfare. The respected university professors who achieved outstanding results in medical science and teaching, such as N. V. Sklifosovsky, S. P. Botkin, K. A. Raukhfus, became the leaders of forming medical community and acquired high public authority allowing them to affect significantly on the development of health care in Russia.

The representatives of medical community used the following methods for development of health care institutions during 1860—1917 in Russia:

1) Fundraising.

A remarkable example is the activity of the professors of Imperial Moscow University (N. V. Sklifosovsky, A. M. Makeev, A. Ya. Kozhevnikov, etc.) to collect donations from merchants (V. A. Morozova, E. V. Paskhalova, M. A. Khludov, etc.) for the construction of the Clinical campus on Devichye Pole (1882—1890). According to the most conservative estimates, the amount of private donations is not less than the third of the total cost of the design, construction and equipment of the entire Clinical Campus.

2) Physicians' charity.

A. Ya. Kozhevnikov donated about 16 thousand rubles for the creation of the Neurological museum at IMU (1891). The capital bequeathed by Kozhevnikov as well as funds raised by the members of the Moscow Society of Neuropathologists and Psychiatrists were used for the establishing of the Research Neurological Institute at IMU (1904—1913).

S. P. Botkin bequeathed 20 thousand rubles on foundation of St. Petersburg Women's Medical Institute (1889).

3) Physicians' volunteer work for the organization of private educational medical institutions, clinics, health care public organizations (societies, unions).

The Union for fighting child mortality (1904), All-Russian society for the protection of mothers and children (1913) and others were founded by N. I. Bystrov, N. P. Gundobin, A. N. Shabanova, etc. These societies arranged consultations, ambulatories, sanatoriums. Joint efforts of pediatricians K. A. Raukhfus, D. A. Sokolov, A. A. Russov, with financial support of donators A. V. Morozov, S. V. Orlov-Davidov, B. G. fon Dervis, Peter Grand Duke of Oldenburg led to the foundation of hospitals for children in Moscow (1887, 1898) and St. Petersburg (1869, 1876).

Often physicians had to combine various forms of organizational efforts with fundraising. One of the plenty examples is the creation of Psychoneurological Institute by V. M. Bekhterev (1903—1907), where students of both sexes studied.

Independent medical community became a driving force of health care institutions' development in Russia during 1860—1917. The construction of Clinical Campuses in universities of Moscow, Kazan, Kharkov; the development of higher medical education for women; the organization of children's health care in Russia are only several examples of socially significant projects having realized with physicians' participation.

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