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Academy of Medical Sciences of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Corresponding author: prof Izet Masic, MD, PhD, FEFMI, FACMI, FIASHI. Academy of Medical Sciences of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. ORCID ID: <http://www.orcid.org/0000-0002-9080-5456>. E-mail: izetmasic@gmail.com

The Most Influential Physicians in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Karl Bayer (1850-1914)

Izet Masic

Dr. Karl (Karel) Bayer (Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, January 23, 1850–Sarajevo, April 12, 1914), was physician, specialist in Neuropsychiatry (Figure 1). He graduated elementary school and gymnasium in the town of Hradec Králové (1-6). He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Charles University in Prague in 1876. In the same year, in the course of his Pasvalist beliefs, he registered himself as a volunteer in the Serbian medical care during the Serbian-Turkish war. He acted as a war surgeon at the Military Hospital in Krusevac. He then married Marija Chorodova in Prague and worked as a secondary doctor, first in the Mental Hospital in Prague, and then on January 12, 1880, at the State Psychiatric Clinic in Kosmonosi, near the town of Mlada Boleslav. During his work at this institution, he particularly dealt with the study of epilepsy cases, on which he wrote in the scientific paper entitled: *Epilepsie se záchvaty zuřivosti. Onanie*, published in the Journal of the Czech Doctors of Medicine, in number 10 (year XXI) dated March 4, 1882. At the Imperial and Royal General Hospital in Prague, which was supervised by renowned professors Bohumil Eiselt and Josef Schöbl, for the second time, he worked from October 30, 1883 to May 15, 1884. From July 1, 1884 to the spring of 1885, he worked as the first assistant to the famous professor of Forensic medicine, Josef Reinsberg, at the Medical Faculty of Charles University in Prague, after which he was appointed to District Medical Doctor of the main Czech city (2, 3).

In December 1884, the Land Government for Bosnia and Herzegovina announced a competition for the medical manager of the thoroughly renovated Vakuf Hospital in Sarajevo, then in the function of the Landehospital. The Vakuf Hospital (Sarajevo's

Figure 1. Dr. Karel Bayer

Hastahana), received the right to treat public at that time (5, 6). This was confirmed in the parliaments of the Austro-Hungarian provinces, so they could be treated on the basis of reciprocity in the Sarajevo hospital and other hospitals of the Empire. Thanks to the excellent references and recommendations of the Czech political factors, the position of the manager of the Vakuf Hospital was received by Dr. Karel Bayer. He took office in early March 1885. Dr. Bayer also worked in a private practice as a doctor of General medicine and a specialist in Neuropsychiatry. His office was until 1908 at Cemaluša 151, and then in Kadračić street (current Prušćak street) on number 17, where dr. Bayer also lived. He became a member of the National Health Council after the founding of that body in 1896, and the government advisor in 1909. During the founding of the Society of Doctors of Medicine of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bayer was unanimously elected as the first president of this organization. Very important and interesting fact recorded in the scientific literature is that in Vakuf's hospital in the year 1791 Dr. Karel Bayer carried out the earliest recorded neurosurgical operations for epilepsy (on three patients with post-traumatic epilepsy) (8, 9). All three patients had suffered from epileptic fits caused by bone fragments in the brain. The op-

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erations consisted of craniotomy, removing of the bone fragments and closing the dura mater. The patients were reported cured 7-11).

About the Bayer's reputation and popularity in Sarajevo, the two most important public awards are most telling. He received from the Vakuf Administration on April 2, 1894, in a form of a calligraphically written diploma, thanks to his humane and noble work and especially his attitude towards the poor. The second award was the unanimous decision of the Sarajevo City Council, headed by Mayor Esad effendi Kulovic, to call a city street by Bayer's name, which the mayor informed him in writing on April 11, 1910. With the opening of the Land Hospital (Landesspital) in Sarajevo, on July 1, 1894, the Vakuf Hospital was transformed into the Observation Station of the infant.

Dr. Bayer continued to lead its work, but he also became the head of the Psychiatric Department of the new Land Hospital. Dr. Bayer on the mountain crossing Ivan-saddle, above the old Ivan railway station, built a small sanatorium. He was retired in 1911. In 1913 he was seriously ill. He died at the Garnizon Hospital in Gornji Hiseti on Sunday, April 12, 1914 at 7 pm. He is buried in a family tomb in the Roman Catholic cemetery of St. Michael, in the main alley (2, 3).

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