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The Most Influential Physicians in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Milan Amrus (1848-1919)

Izet Masic

Dr. Milan Emil Amrus (1848-1919), was Austro-Hungarian physician and politician who lived and work in Sarajevo and Zagreb. Grammar school he finished in Slavonski Brod and Gymnasium in Zagreb (1-3). In the year 1872. Amrus graduated at Military Medical Academy »Josephinum« in Vienna. In the year 1874 he came to Sarajevo as Colonel physician. He was one of pioneers of modern health care protection service in Bosnia and Herzegovina (4-6). Milan Amrus also graduated Faculty for Law and Justice. During two mandate he was Major of the Zagreb city. For a shorter time period he worked as an internist in Zagreb and Vienna, and in 1878, after the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, he was transferred to Sarajevo, where he arranged a military hospital as a military doctor, suppressing epidemic diseases and pestal plague. He laid the groundwork for the modern health service in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and was appointed as health advisor and health and veterinary advisor to the National Government in Sarajevo. He intended to devote himself to politics and went to Vienna and studied law. He graduated in 1890. He worked at the Institute of Pathology with professor Solomon Stricker and collaborated with Viennese medical journals. In 1886 he published a noteworthy paper on the morphology of tuberculosis. Amrus research has prompted professor Stricker to change his original viewpoint (which was contrary to Koch's) about the cause of tuberculosis. About the meaning and the beginning of Amrus's work also wrote professor Julius Wagner-Jauregg. Amrus also cooperated in *Obzor* (1886, 1898, 1900, 1917), *Agramer Tagblatt* (1894, 1898, 1900, 1901, 1908, 1909), and in the *Narodne novine* (1907, 1918) (1, 3). He pledged to establish a Medical faculty in Zagreb. In Vienna, between 1883 and 1886, he founded the Croatian Accessibility Society for pupils and was its president until his return to Zagreb. In Zagreb, as a member of the Independent People's Party („obzoraši“), he was elected to the Croatian Parliament. In Parliament for the first time he stepped out in 1887 advocating the construction of a new theater building. His other speeches were shrouded in all branches of political life at that time. Although he later approached Ban Khu-

en-Hé-dervary and stepped out of his party, he nevertheless continued to represent Croatian interests. In 1890, he became the mayor of Zagreb, but was dismissed in 1892 (because he refused to be a member of the patronage deputy for Budapest). However, in 1904 he again took over the city administration. As head of the department he worked on the introduction of trams, the removal of gas production facility from the city, the construction of a new railway station, electrical switchboard and children's ambulatory and removal of the fairground in front of the building of today's rector. During the First World War, he was active in organizing health care. He wrote several papers on tuberculosis (2, 3).

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