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The Most Influential Physicians in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Bruno Curinaldi (1854-1944)

Izet Masic

Dr. Bruno von Curinaldi, came to Mostar from Zadar (Croatia) and started to work as Director of Mostar hospital in 1879 (1-3). In that time in Mostar also worked Dr. Franjo Hus (died in Mostar 1940), Dr. Otto Weiss (came to Mostar in 1882 from Billoth's hospital in Vienna, and in 1894 he moved to State hospital in Sarajevo to chair Gynaecology-Obstetrics department), Dr. William Toner (from Prague, well known as physician who treated poor people in Mostar free of charge (written in journal «Novi hercegovački bosiljak» in 1885) (4), Dr. Fakete Samule (from Hungary, died in Mostar due to infection when performing autopsy), Dr. Trepeljka and Dr. Kestner (worked in 1886, during epidemic of cholera in Mostar), Dr. Braun, Dr. Herman, Dr. Koralek, Dr. Tausig (all of them physicians in Military hospital in Mostar), Dr. Moritz Englander (surgeon), Dr. Drago Mesliger, Dr. Kohn, Dr. Goldfarb, Dr. Franjo Bulat (famous physician, but also musician, Director of "Hrvatska glazba" in Mostar which organized a lot of concerts in Mostar, died in 1947), Dr. Gotfrid Holer, Dr. Pollacek. From Vienna to Mostar sometime was coming famous ophtalmologist Dr. Dragutin Heinzel (worked at Clinic of professor Fuchs), Dr. Jerko Bulat, son of Franjo Bulat spent his work time in Mostar. Dr. Nikola Grazetic also was engaged in Mostar's cultural manifestations with Franjo Bulat (4).

Bruno Curinaldi was a lucky combination of Italian descent, Austro-Hungarian education, life in the Croatian environment, encounter of Catholicism and Muslims - in a word - a true image of the multiculturalism of an intellectual. Following his ninety years of life and 66 years of medical profession arranged at 19th and 20th century and the cities of Zadar, Mostar and Sarajevo, we gain insight not only in his personal development, doubt and progress, but also in the social movement of that turbulent period. The medicine of his time was very different from the modern medicine of today, but he sent his message with his life: with

the most important component of this profession and call, one should always try to help the sick and the helpless, and the doctor must never forget his task of teaching and organizing health care in the community (5).

He spent most of his medical work in Mostar, together with his colleague, Peter Rizzo, where he deeply attached himself to the population of Mostar and its surroundings (6). However, dr. Bruno Curinaldi gets an invitation to take over the post of head of Provincial Health care Institute in Sarajevo. In 1912, he was appointed the head of the Land Healthcare services and was transferred to Sarajevo. Under his presidency, he was held on March 5 and 6, 1913, at the nursing school in the Land hospital in Sarajevo, a two-month course (1, 2, 7). Many candidates passed the exam (9 with very good, 4 good, 4 sufficient marks, while one candidate had to repeat the exam due to illness). Bruno Curinaldi, court adviser and head of health sector of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian government, was honored at the beginning of 1916 by the Iron Crown of the 3rd order. He was also the president of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Land Assistance Society, was decorated with the honorary sign and class of the Red Cross with war decorations. Dr. Curinaldi at the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the end of the war was the head of the Health Department in Sarajevo. He was retired in the new state, and on his position in

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Figure 1. Cover page of the book “First hospitals in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, written by Izet Masic

the new provincial government for Bosnia and Herzegovina, on November 1, 1918, and Uroš Krulj was appointed (2, 3).

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Figure 2. Cover page of the book “History of medicine in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, written by Izet Masic