

14. SUMMARY

250 years ago, the new, scientifically based, state training of medical surgeons and midwives began in Cluj (Kolozsvár, Klausenburg, Claudiopolis, Cluj-Napoca). It was there that the first medical-surgical educational institution was founded, not only in relation to historical Transylvania, but also to present days Romania. This book contains the history of this educational institution. Based on current knowledge, the institute offered the same high level of education as was the case in the last quarter of the 18th century, in Central Europe and in the Habsburg Monarchy, from Innsbruck to Lemberg (Lviv), from Olmütz (Olomouc) to Graz or from Salzburg to Laibach (Ljubljana), to mention just a few of the former partner institutions of Cluj. In all those towns, university-like surgical training was introduced, which coexisted with the medical training at the universities of the Habsburg Empire.

The “novel” medical-surgeon formed a transition between the barber surgeon, who was trained in a guild only for the treatment of “external diseases”, and the university-trained physician (*medicus*, *pysicus*), who was responsible for the therapy of “internal diseases”. Eventually, the two healing professions came closer and closer to each other, until they finally merged in the last quarter of the 19th century and continued the common path of so-called general medicine. Nowadays nothing is more natural than a surgeon also being a doctor, and that a doctor also treats or even operates on external and internal diseases.

This development, which is of outstanding importance in the history of medicine, is mainly due to the personal conviction and dedicated commitment of the Habsburg Emperor Joseph II, who in 1783 declared the surgical and medical professions to be of equal value and, by emphasizing their equality, achieved success as he accelerated this development process with a series of measures.

This book is published on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the beginnings of medical and surgical education in Transylvania. The beginnings of this change can be traced back to the Health Law of 1770 enacted by Empress Maria Theresa, which stipulated that surgeons and midwives at a state-controlled educational institution must acquire a qualification and an exam-based degree, as well as a diploma. For this purpose, a so-called “lower” medical-surgical school was established in the capitals of the hereditary provinces of the empire. In Cluj, the training of surgeons began in January 1775 as a department of the Báthory University (Academy), which had been

in operation since 1581. Joseph Laffer, a master of surgery and obstetrician from Austria, who had been trained in Vienna, was appointed its lecturer with the task of teaching anatomy, surgery and obstetrics as well as giving a one-month course for midwives. From these modest beginnings, a successful and urgently needed educational institution was developed over almost a hundred years for the great benefit of the entire Transylvanian society.

Our book consists of two parts. In five chapters of the first part, Robert Offner, Chief Physician of Transfusion Medicine at the University Hospital Regensburg and Professor of the History of Medicine, presents the precursors of the medical and surgical education in Europe, with special consideration of similar former partner institutions, i.e. medical-surgical academies in the German and Habsburg Empires. He also describes the traditional guild training of barber surgeons and the changes in the health regulations and laws of the time.

The second part, written by György Gaal, university professor, as well as literary, cultural and local historian, deals with the prehistory of higher education in Transylvania and the development of the medical-surgical school in Cluj. He describes in detail how the former Báthory University was enriched by a medical faculty in 1775, how this faculty was transformed in 1818 into a medical-surgical school, and how it functioned as a completely independent institution from 1850 to 1872. The first teacher of the faculty taught three disciplines alone. In 1782 the professorship for veterinary medicine was founded and in 1790 one for ophthalmology. From 1838 the number of teachers rose to six. Instruction was given in the national languages (German, Hungarian and Romanian). From 1811 onwards, the practical training of surgeons and midwives took place in the military hospital and then in the Carolina State Hospital located in the “Alte Burg”. Theoretical topics were taught in the rooms on the ground floor of the Lyceum building in Wolfsgasse, which was built in 1821. Such well-trained surgeons and medical teachers have shaped and educated several generations of surgeons who have also acquired qualifications in veterinary medicine, obstetrics and ophthalmology, as Peter Fuhrmann, Ioan Molnar (Piuariu) von Müllersheim, Johann Eckstein von Ehrenburg, Elek Bruszt, Mihály Judenhoffer, Elek Lécfalvi Keresztes, Bogdán Ábrahám, Mihály Nagybatzoni Intze, István Bágyi Joó, József Csíkszeredai Szabó, József Incseli Szöts, Emil Jakob Nagel, Franz Zahn, Ferenc Czifra, János Maizner and József Brandt. In the 1850s and 60s, some well-known scientists such as József Lenhossék, Jenő Jendrassik, Tivadar Margó, and Kálmán Balogh, who later became university professors in Budapest and members of the Hungarian Academy of Science, began their teaching activity in this surgical institute. Others made their university career in Transylvania: Eight lecturers were appointed to the university’s Faculty of Medicine. The institute existed for 97 years until 1872,

when it merged with the Faculty of Medicine of the newly founded Royal Hungarian University in Cluj.

During its existence, the 32 teachers and 39 assistants of the school trained more than a thousand medical surgeons. Since the number of doctors who had university degrees was relatively small, these novel surgeons carried out a significant part of their country's health care. The annual midwifery training was increased to five months, and the number of midwives trained and examined, so-called "qualified" midwives exceeded 1500. Based on the (incomplete) submitted lists of names, it is known that all ethnic groups of the country can be found in the ranks of teachers and students: Germans, Hungarians, Romanians, Czechs, Armenians, Jews. There were also foreigners among them.

In its almost century-long history, the Medical-Surgical Institute in Cluj laid a solid foundation for the medical branch of higher education in Transylvania and contributed significantly to the growth of professional medical staff and to the expansion of scientifically based surgical and obstetric care. It can be seen as the forerunner of the Hungarian Royal University as well as the later Romanian-language Faculty of Medicine (from 1919) and the so-called "Medical School of Cluj". In this way, it was also a link to the former old Báthory University. The medical universities of Târgu Mureș (Marosvásárhely, Neumarkt am Mieresch) and Szeged are also "descendants". All these reasons offer the right motivation to commemorate and pay due tribute to the achievements of their professional predecessors with this monograph on the history of the medical-surgical institute and a scientific conference.