

## THE PHARMACY OF THE “FILANTROPIA” HOSPITAL FROM CRAIOVA BETWEEN 1905-1908

Elena-Steluța DINU<sup>1</sup>

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### ABSTRACT:

*THIS PAPER ANALYSIS THE WAY THE PHARMACY OF THE “FILANTROPIA” HOSPITAL FROM CRAIOVA UNFOLDED ITS ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1905-1908. IN THAT PERIOD IRREGULARITIES REGARDING THE SUPPLY OF MEDICINES IN THIS HOSPITAL HAVE BEEN NOTICED.*

*IN APRIL 1905 EDUARD KONTESCHWELLER, THE PHARMACIST, WAS THE ONLY PARTICIPANT AT THE AUCTION FORMALLY ORGANISED BY THE CITY HALL OF CRAIOVA. DESPITE THESE, HE WAS GIVEN THE CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF MEDICINES NECESSARY TO THE “FILANTROPIA” HOSPITAL. MOREOVER, THE QUANTUM OF THE PRICES APPLIED BY THIS PHARMACIST WAS LOWER THAN THE ONE FORESEEN IN THE REGULATION OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL TAX.*

*IN 1907 THE MEDICINES WERE STORED IN INADEQUATE CONDITIONS BECAUSE THE PHARMACY WAS AT THE BASEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AND THE STOCK OF MEDICINES EXCEEDED THE DEMAND.*

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**KEY WORDS:** PHARMACY, MEDICINES, “FILANTROPIA” HOSPITAL, CRAIOVA, THE PHARMACEUTICALAL COMMITTEE.

The “*Filantropia*” Hospital from Craiova<sup>2</sup>, founded in 1856, had its own pharmacy which was provided with medicine by private enterprise, based on a contract, by different pharmacists from Craiova.

After some analyses done by health inspectors, in July 1902 the minister of the Internal Affairs, doctor Petrini- Galatz, and the chief of the General Direction of the Health Service told the prefect of Dolj county that they had under surveillance a significant number of irregularities regarding the medicines, which were accompanied by medical prescriptions from the rural, county or communal hospitals. Considering the pharmacopoeia and the pharmaceutical tax, the budgetary provisions, the disposals from the ministerial instructions, from the regulations of the rural, county and communal hospitals regarding the hospitals’ supply of medicines, the way of prescribing, delivery and use of the medicines payed from public funds, it was noticed that the doctors as well

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<sup>1</sup> Ph.D., Faculty of History and Philosophy, “Babeș-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, elena.dinu@ubbcluj.ro, elena\_dinu2010@yahoo.com

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as the pharmacists did not obey these disposals and caused damage to the public finances , exceeding the budgetary provisions by waste of medicines, multiple and expensive prescriptions of medicines unspecified in the pharmaceutical tax and the pharmacopoeia or in the public finances, by wasting the containers in which the medicines were packed, by the lack of knowledge regarding the economic disposals of the pharmaceutical taxes advantageous to the public finances, by forgetting that the pharmacists were no longer obliged to compete for medicine supplies at the moment and thus any reduction was suppressed.

Considering all these, the doctors, especially hospital doctors and the supplying pharmacists had to comply with the following terms:

- In the future, regarding the medicine supply of the rural, communal pharmacies and hospitals, they had to comply with: a) the ministerial instructions regarding the prescription, preparation, delivery and tax of the medicines payed from public funds; b) the list of medicines which can be prescribed from the account of public funds; c) the regulation of the rural hospitals (chapter V, Title VII), applicable in this regard to county and communal hospitals as well; d) the budgetary provisions which could not be exceeded; e) the pharmacopoeia and the pharmaceutical tax.
- They had to keep in a register the daily evidence of all the containers entering the hospital from the supplying pharmacies, as well as of those which the hospitals returned daily to the pharmacies. At taxing, the cost of containers did not have to be specified and at the end of the month only the value of unreturned containers had to be registered. At the end of the month the pharmacists had to attach a justifying account for the number of containers given and returned during that month from the hospitals.
- It was not allowed to prescribe or distribute instruments or surgical devices on the account of the budgetary provisions for medicines.
- At the end of the month the hospital doctors had to provide the tables with the evidence of the medicines that entered or were used along the month as well as of the quantities that remained.
- When writing prescriptions and supply commands the doctors had to leave enough space for the pharmacists to tax and the latter had to do that thoroughly.
- The hospital doctors were not allowed to exceed in the winter months the 12<sup>th</sup> part of the budgetary provision for medicines and the 15<sup>th</sup> part in the summer months (May-September inclusively), when generally the hospitals were less populated by patients.
- It was not allowed to prescribe for preparation in the pharmacy medicines that could be prepared and easily distributed in hospitals by the personnel, such as: solutions for patches, quinine, camphorated alcohol, unction, boric solutions, iodoforms, sulfur solutions, tea, infusions, etc. the doctors had to save through the quantities of medicines prescribed as well.
- It was not allowed to store great amounts of medicines that were not used daily in pharmacies and neither was to prescribe, on the account of public funds, medicines that were expensive or unstipulated in the pharmaceutical tax, written in the catalogue list of medicines allowed to be distributed in the respective account.

This ministerial order had to be presented to all the doctors, pharmacists and to the councils of hygiene by lecturing it in public meeting.

The prefects, the mayors, the health inspectors, the pharmaceutical committee and the council of hygiene committees, assigned to check the medicines accounts, had the duty to observe the accomplishment of the respective order and to signal any deviation.

On the future, the damage that might have resulted from disobeying these disposals would be imputed to the ordering doctors or the supplying pharmacists<sup>3</sup>.

The situation of the pharmacy belonging to the county hospital of Craiova did not improve too much after this ministerial order. Because at the public auctions organised by the City Hall of Craiova for supplying by private enterprise the medicines necessary to the “*Filantropia*” hospital in 1905-1906 no pharmacist was present, the mayor has decided that pharmacist Eduard Konteschweller should supply the hospital with medicines and on 30th April 1905 invited him to sign the contract. As a response, pharmacist Konteschweller agreed to supply the medicines necessary to this hospital on 6th May 1905, but his agreement was conditioned by establishing a price with 10% higher than the prices established by the hospital pharmacist, as he considered them to be „lowered in an extraordinary manner”<sup>4</sup>. Besides this, the pharmacist requested that he should be allowed to establish prices, which he considered modest, for the containers made from different vessels and glass, in which the medicines were packed.

However, the General Direction of the Health Service asked the president of the Pharmaceutical Committee, Gregoriade, to go to Craiova and to investigate the case regarding the medicine supply of the “*Filantropia*” hospital and to establish the responsibility regarding the violation of article 6 from the regulation of pharmaceutical tax. As soon as he arrived in the city he contacted the mayor, from which he learned that the county hospital was administered at that moment by the City Hall of Craiova and the supply of medicine was delivered after an auction organised at the written request of the hospital pharmacist, who had the duty to present twice a year a list of the quantity of medicines necessary to the hospital.

The procedure according to which this hospital was supplied with medicines was the following: the date of the auction was published and the pharmacist who offered the lowest prices won the auction. For the second semester of 1905 the supply of medicines was given to pharmacist Konteschweller.

Then, the president of the Pharmaceutical Committee arrived at the “*Filantropia*” hospital, where he talked especially to the hospital M.D., who, after finding out the purpose of the official visit, led him to the hospital pharmacy and ordered the medical personnel to offer him all the requested information. At the same time, he declared he was not involved in the way the hospital pharmacy was supplied with medicines, as the hospital pharmacist had the duty to provide him with all he needed and when medicines were missing the pharmacist addressed directly to the City Hall to notify them about the needed medicines.

Afterwards, Gregoriade inspected the hospital pharmacy and noticed the following: the “*Filantropia*” hospital owned a pharmacy where a person licensed in pharmacy, an assistant and a laboratory assistant worked. The pharmacy contained: an „oficina”, a „material” room and a laboratory. In all these rooms there was too much moisture, as they were at the basement, even if there was enough light. When inspected, the pharmacy was in reparation and it was not arranged. It did not have updated accounting records neither for the purchased medicines nor for those sold. Therefore, they did not know exactly what medicines were in the pharmacy, their quantity and value, although the hospital chief- doctor claimed that the pharmacists were very truthful and he was very pleased with them.

The president of the Pharmaceutical Committee analysed most of the medicines prepared there and he noticed that they were well prepared. However, he took some samples to be tested in a chemistry lab from Bucharest.

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<sup>3</sup> National Archives Service of Dolj County, The Prefect fund, Administrative Department, file 234/1902, 17.

<sup>4</sup> National Archives Service of Dolj County, The City Hall fund, Administrative Department, file 85/1905, 5.

The hospital pharmacist declared that the pharmacy he managed got the medicine supply by auction which was held at the City Hall, as a follow-up of its request, then a list of the necessary medicines was made, in which quantities were specified. The prices were established also by the hospital pharmacist, according to the current price „ sheets” of a „drugstore” chosen randomly. The hospital pharmacist declared that in the past the medicines were delivered by „druggists” from Bucharest and by a local „druggist”, but there always have been inconveniences regarding the medicine supply as well as the quantity and their quality, and for several years the hospital got their supply from one of the local pharmacists, but he did not know how the auction was held. He claimed that the auction took place very late, as on 27th May 1905 the City Hall asked him to purchase the needed medicines from Konteschweller’s pharmacy, using bills, but only on 28th June 1905 did he receive the rest of the medicines written on the list.

Gregoriade went to Konteschweller’s pharmacy and asked him to detail the way in which he provided medicines to the *Filantropia* hospital. The pharmacist declared from the beginning that he was asked to provide those medicines because no one else was present at the auction. That was why the president of the Pharmaceutical Committee told him that under those circumstances, with him being the only participant at the auction, he violated article 6 from the pharmaceutical tax regulation and he should not have established prices lower than those stipulated in it. The pharmacist justified his actions by the fact that he owned a „drugstore” and therefore he asked a 10% increase, plus the price of the containers and under these circumstances he was allowed to supply them.

The president of the Pharmaceutical Committee continued his work by looking after the other pharmacists in the city which should have participated at the auction, although three of them established in Craiova after April 1905, but he did not find them at home, except for pharmacist Niculescu, whom he asked about the cause of his absence at the auction. He answered that, first of all, he could not present there with the prices from the „drugstore” and, secondly, even if he wanted to participate it could not have been possible as he received the invitation two hours later, after the auction was assigned to Konteschweller. However, based on the bills, Niculescu supplied medicines amounting approximately 500 lei to the *Filantropia* hospital pharmacy. He cashed the money in April 1905, when it was decided that pharmacist Konteschweller should supply the hospital with medicines.

After hearing the hospital pharmacist, as well as the other pharmacists in the city, Gregoriade reached the conclusion that, in regard to the supply of the *Filantropia* hospital pharmacy, the personnel of the City Hall who were in charge of this had committed great irregularities in the past and at that moment.

The president of the Pharmaceutical Committee noticed that in April 1905 a list of necessary medicines for the hospital was sent and the auction, which did not take place actually, was held formally on 26th April 1905, when a report was written, in which it was specified that the supply was entrusted to pharmacist Konteschweller, who was notified that within four days had to deliver the needed medicines to the hospital pharmacy for the sum of 6420 lei and 50 bani, although the list of medicines of the hospital pharmacist did not exceed the sum of 5210 lei and 25 bani.

Gregoriade also observed that pharmacist Konteschweller agreed to deliver the medicines only on 6th May 1905, after he had prepared an assignment notebook which was received by the City Hall, but his petition was not registered. All these irregularities were done by the City Hall clerks.

Besides these, he noticed that pharmacist Konteschweller violated article 6 from the Pharmaceutical Tax Regulation by not presenting himself at the auction and by not having any competitor.

After the inspection, the president of the Pharmaceutical Committee, Gregoriade, proposed the general director of the Health Service the following:

1. The pharmacist of the “*Filantropia*” hospital should be given a two-months term to prepare an exact accounting, as he was indicated, based on registers in which acquisitions and medicine deliveries are registered, and after a certain period of time the general director of the Health Service should order another inspection.
2. The location of the pharmacy should be changed, as humidity caused damages by deteriorating the herbs, the flowers, the roots, the iodine solutions, etc.
3. Such unexpected inspections, as this one from the hospital, should be organised in all the state hospital pharmacies, where he was convinced that similar irregularities happened.
4. Observations should be made to pharmacist Konteschweller for not obeying article 6 from the Pharmaceutical Tax Regulation.
5. So that, in the future, such irregularities could be avoided, the city pharmacies had to provide, by rotation, every six month, medicines to the “*Filantropia*” hospital, as it had already happened to the other hospitals from the city. Only in this way could the pharmacies comply with the disposals previously ordered by the general director of the Health Service<sup>5</sup>.

In spite of all these recommendations received from Bucharest, some of the irregularities noticed by the president of the Pharmaceutical Committee in 1905 repeated two years later. That was why in July 1907 the City Hall of Craiova asked pharmacist Dimitrie M. Borş- who lived in Craiova, on Justitiei street, no.32, the M.D. of the “*Filantropia*” hospital, doctor Augustin and the communal counsellor Militaru to do the reception of the medicines based on the contract closed on „good agreement” with the old communal administration, who gave it to Borş without previously organising an auction<sup>6</sup>.

However, the chief-pharmacist of the hospital, Constantin Marinescu, claimed there were great dissatisfactions regarding the quantity and quality of the medicines. That was why he proposed that the medicine supply should be done from “*Vulturul de Aur*” pharmacy belonging to Eduard Konteschweller who, this time, fulfilled all the exact conditions and considered that only in this way the patients from the hospital would have benefitted from “absolutely pure” medicines supplied on time<sup>7</sup>.

Marinescu’s recommendation was not taken into account and eventually, according to the instructions given by the mayor regarding the supply of medicines necessary to the “*Filantropia*” hospital for the second semester of 1907, on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1907 in the morning, pharmacist Borş brought to hospital the entire supply of medicines and at 10 o’clock their reception should have been done. But the committee did not meet on that day because the communal counsellor was absent.

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<sup>5</sup> National Archives Service of Dolj County, The City Hall fund, Administrative Department, file 85/1905, 2-3 verso.

<sup>6</sup> National Archives Service of Dolj County, The City Hall fund, Administrative Department, file 68/1907, 50.

<sup>7</sup> National Archives Service of Dolj County, The City Hall fund, Administrative Department, file 68/1907, 32.

Until the reception was done the medicines were not deposited in proper conditions, being exposed to the basement humidity. Pharmacist Borș actually pinpointed the inadequate storage of the medicines and he did not consider himself responsible for their deterioration<sup>8</sup>.

Also then, new irregularities regarding the pharmacy of the “Filantropia” hospital appeared. On 21<sup>st</sup> August 1907 the city M.D., doctor Antonini, went to the pharmacy of this hospital and took eight samples from the medicines supplied by pharmacist Dimitrie M. Borș, which he sealed with the hospital seal and gave them to the mayor, together with the report, so that they would be later sent to the General Direction of the Health Service to be chemically analysed. On this occasion, doctor Antonini drew the mayor’s attention to the irregularities found regarding the supply of medicines to this pharmacy. At the same time, he also noticed an unjustified waste of medicines because, to his great surprise, the pharmacist from that moment showed him colossal quantities of medicines which had been requested by the former pharmacist. That supply could not have been used in 10 years. According to his opinion the only way to end these irregularities was to send an investigating committee which could thoroughly investigate the case and establish the responsibilities. The fabrications observed by the chief-doctor of the hospital added to all these, according to the bill register from 1906-1907.

As a consequence of doctor Antonini’s complaint, the mayor decided to form an investigation committee, formed of counsellor Stoenescu, the city M.D., doctor Antonini, the chief- doctor of the „Filantropia” hospital- doctor Augustin and pharmacist Konteschweller, member in the Hygiene Council<sup>9</sup>.

One month later, the health inspector doctor Duma inspected the „Filantropia” hospital and on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1907 the minister of Internal Affairs, Sion, asked the hospital M.D. the following:

1. To sign the register of medicines every day and in his absence this must be signed by the secondary doctor at the end of the visit. Also, the secondary doctor was asked to sign all the prescriptions written by him daily, including those prescribed by the resident medical student on service during the day. The pharmacist was not allowed to prescribe any medicine without the signature of a doctor who had the right to sign.
2. Not to allow access in the medical and administrative service of the hospital of any other person except for those who had rights recognised by law and regulations and interns had to keep records of the medical service.
3. To notify interns, midwives and the intendant that they were scolded<sup>10</sup>.

All these inspections have led to the gradual development of this pharmacy which, under the management of pharmacist Victoria Bârsan<sup>11</sup>, became independent of the pharmacies in Craiova. The improvement of the situation of this hospital pharmacy was due to the fact that since 1908 the state took over the management of the „*Filantropia*” hospital definitively.

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<sup>8</sup> National Archives Service of Dolj County, The City Hall fund, Administrative Department, file 68/1907, 51-52 verso.

<sup>9</sup> National Archives Service of Dolj County, The City Hall fund, Administrative Department, file 68/1907, 73-73 verso.

<sup>10</sup> National Archives Service of Dolj County, The City Hall fund, Administrative Department, file 68/1907, 83-83 verso.

<sup>11</sup> Petre Firescu, editor. *The centenary of the unified adult hospital “Filantropia” from Craiova, 1856-1956*; (Craiova, 1956), 21.

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