

HOSPITALS IN CRAIOVA IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

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ABSTRACT:

THIS ARTICLE PRESENTS THE MAIN HOSPITALS THAT OPERATED IN CRAIOVA, THE CAPITAL OF DOLJ COUNTY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

MILITARY HOSPITALS WERE ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE CIVIL ONES CLOSELY WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY POWER, THROUGH SOLDIERY REGULATIONS IN JULY 1831. INAUGURATION OF FILANTROPIA CIVIL HOSPITAL WAS POSSIBLE ONLY IN 1856, AFTER MORE THAN TWO DECADES AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF THE ORGANIC REGULATION FROM 1831. ITS PROVISIONS ALSO LISTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS HOSPITAL.

ANOTHER HOSPITAL WAS FOUNDED DUE TO THE DONATION OF MERCHANT THEODOR I. PREDA, WHICH PROVIDED BOTH HEADQUARTERS AND INCOME REQUIRED FOR FUNCTIONING. THE CHURCH WAS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE HOSPITAL MADONA-DUDU.

HOSPITAL OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES WAS ESTABLISHED ONLY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. IT WAS BUILT THANKS TO THE CONTRIBUTION OF INDIVIDUALS.

KEY WORDS: CRAIOVA, LAZARETTO, PHYSICIANS, THE TRUSTEESHIP OF CIVIL HOSPITALS, FILANTROPIA HOSPITAL.

Health settlements reported in Craiova during the nineteenth century, are divided into two categories: military and civilian.

The first military hospitals in Craiova were established by the Russians in the context of Russian-Turkish wars in the territory of Oltenia, as was the case of the hospital organized in the years 1807-1808, which operated until 1812. Even though most civilians sought health to unauthorized persons, Russian soldiers received specialized medical help. In this sense, the surgeon Droslovici was sent by Ipsilanti in March 1807 to work in the new hospital. Next physician to arrive in Craiova was Constantin Lambrino in 1808. He cared for both Russian soldiers and local soldiers. By bringing these physicians it was desired to obtain improving health care from which only military personnel enjoyed by then. In the context of the same wars, the Russians occupied Oltenia, in October 1853,

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after that they began to organize 12 hospitals in which the Russian soldiers could receive medical care when war broke out. Only three of these hospitals (no. 2, no. 5, no. 12) were held in Craiova, through the means of local government, and were installed in 26 public and private buildings, comprising a total of 1865 beds². Their installation was completed in March 1853, but the planned battles between Russians and Turks did not occur anymore and Russian military occupation of Oltenia ended in July 1854³.

Although among the medical staff of the Russian hospital in Craiova (established in 1808 in the houses of Boyar Priscoveanu, which functioned until 1830) were included also Romanians, who in addition to Russian soldiers, cared for the people from Muntenia, the Russian hospital of Craiova could not however be considered a Romanian medical establishment.

Romanian soldiers' hospitals, also called *lazaretto* occurred in strong connection with the organization of military power. By *Soldierly Regulations* that were issued in July 1831, it was decided that medical care of new established regiments should be made by three *lazarettos*, namely, in Bucharest, Craiova and Ploiesti. First *lazaretto* put into service was the one in Craiova, in August 1831, with a capacity of 20 beds, followed by the *lazaretto* in Bucharest, September 13, 1831, with a capacity of 40 beds. The fact that *Soldier's Hospital* from Craiova was put into immediate service was due to the takeover of the buildings in which functioned until a year earlier, the Russian military hospital, in the houses of Boyar Priscoveanu.

The commander of *lazaretto* Craiova was the director of the 3rd line Regiment, who had double subordination, both the regimental commander and to Health *Commission* in Bucharest. The first chief doctor of the hospital was Ignatie Navara (d. 1836). He is also believed to have Transylvanian origins as he began his studies at the Medical-Surgical School of Cluj-Napoca, without graduating it. The period he served as chief physician of the *lazaretto* was short, only in 1831. After his departure, at command of the medical service of the regiment from Craiova was appointed Doctor Petre Ferrari (1775-1843) from Ploiesti, who led the military service in Craiova until April 1832. Prior to occupying this position, starting in 1809, after obtaining his doctorate at Pavia, he was a communal physician in Craiova for over two decades, until 1831. After April 1832 he worked as a doctor in Bucharest.

During 1831-1881, this hospital was installed in various buildings in the city, including the houses of *Sfanta Troița* church or the premises of Governor Iancu Grădișteanu, but in 1881, the War Office bought from Maria M. Poenaru and from City Hall of Craiova, the land on which was built the Military hospital, from its services also benefited the civilian population.

During the period 1880-1916, the hospital was permanently employed and equipped in a way that made possible functioning of a remarkable medical and surgical activity. Here worked some of the foremost surgeons of the army⁴: Ion Vercescu, Athanasie DemosthenIacob Potarca, Ion Elian etc.

During the War of Independence (1877-1878), it was imperative that, along with existing hospitals, to be established a number of temporary military hospitals where wounded soldiers could receive medical care on the front. Most of these hospitals were specially arranged in premises or personal property houses: *Golfineanu*, *Brăiloiu Vlădica*,

² Victor Gomoiu, „*Spitalele Ostășești din Craiova la 1854*” in *Mișcarea medicală română*, No. 9-10 (1942), 581.

³ Gomoiu, „*Viața medicală a Olteniei*”, in *Oltenia. Studii și cercetări*, Edited by Florea Firan (Craiova: Scrisul Românesc, 2008, 163.

⁴ Cheiță Nicolae and Iovan Vlădia, *Istoricul spitalului militar din Craiova* (Craiova, 2007), 2-8.

C. Vrabiescu, Dumba, Olteanu, Pața, Haralamb, Nae Chiciu, Mihail Dini, Teodoru Statie etc.

All Craiova temporary military hospitals were, during the war, under a *Standing Committee of Administration and Observation*, consisting of Ion N. Titulescu - Dolj prefect, G.I. Pessicu - Craiova Mayor, Ion Theodorian - Member, Iosif Wilhelm Fabricicius and Iacob Banciu - doctors.

Doctors Fabricicius, Drăgoescu, Nicolaidis, Christescu, Roscovski and others carried out an extraordinary work within these hospitals where they worked relentlessly, which led the prefect of Dolj county to speak words of appreciation and praise.

In the category of civilian hospitals that developed their activity in Craiova during the nineteenth century, we mention the temporary hospitals but also *Filantropia* hospital, *Madona-Dudu*, *Theodor I. Preda* and *Contagious Diseases Hospital* which was established quite late in the year 1896.

Temporary hospitals functioned in private homes, but had constant need of repair. Duration of activity of these hospitals depended on the amount of donated funds, which often were not enough for more than a year or two, after that period the hospital was usually closed. The medical activity practiced here for the civilian population was empirical, while the nobles resorted to scientific and medical treatments in the West. A temporary hospital was reported in Craiova between 1840-1841, which worked especially in spring and summer, but in cold seasons it ceased its activities due to lack of heat⁵. Here, Dr. Pascalli Antonovici, aided by three caregivers, treated the poor. Hospital facilities were limited to plank beds, whose number varied between 10 and 28, in which were seated several patients, regardless of medical conditions. Such hospitals arose from needs of the time, but they were not organized, subsidized and controlled by the state. Because of their temporary character, of the wrong way that healthcare was conceived - there were hospitalized the incurable, vagabonds and beggars, the infirm, the dying - the fact that they were kept from public charity, from fragile funds, they could not cover the ever growing needs, did not correspond in terms of the aim pursued, but were just improvisings that resisted shortly.

Since 1831, in the *Organic Regulation* of the Romanian Country, in the chapter on finance and government expenditures, in Article 6, paragraph 19 was stipulated that the state budget to allocate annual amount of 150,000 lei "for keeping of three hospitals: one in Bucharest other in Craiova and the third in a city that will be in the middle of Great Wallachia"⁶.

Moreover, in Article 123 was specified: "The Metropolitan Seats, bishoprics and monasteries dedicated to all those foreigners or not dedicated, will contribute to state spending for public settlements and for the goodness of their income from their revenues"⁷. Pantelimon and Colțea monastery were exempt from this rule as their founders decided that their income to be used for financial maintenance of churches and hospitals bearing the names of these monasteries.

Thus, starting 1831 the state budget began to allocate annually to trusteeship of hospitals an amount of 150,000 lei, of which the third part was intended for *Filantropia*

⁵ Petre Firescu, *Centenarul spitalului unificat de adulți „Filantropia” din Craiova 1856-1956* (Craiova, 1956), 6.

⁶ Firescu, *Centenarul...*, 8.

⁷ Serviciul Județean al Arhivelor Naționale Dolj (National Archives Service of Dolj County), fond Primăria municipiului Craiova, serviciul administrativ, dosar 68/1907, f. 130.

hospital in Bucharest and the remaining money was capitalized for the other two hospitals in the rest of the country⁸.

We must note that the hospital trusteeships were created by an act by the General Kisseleff on April 2, 1832, which brought together the boards of the three hospitals in Bucharest: *Colțea*, *Pantelimon* and *Filantropia* afterwards were called the members of the boards (ephors): the magistrate Mihail Ghica, chancellor Mihail Racoviță, exciseman Alecu Ghica and the "man of skill", physician Picolo. By 1832 those three hospitals had been administered separately. In 1847, Prince George Bibescu further widened the trusteeship of hospitals by passing them under the control of the administration of all hospitals in the country. Thus were abolished, in fact, the separate administrations of the three hospitals in Bucharest: and was given to the trusteeship an organization with the character of state institutions. The budget of this institution was approved by the ruler, and the expenses were subject to the same scrutiny as state spending. In this way the state could oversee and at the same time efficiently to exploit hospital costs. Character of public administration that ruler Bibescu gave to trusteeship of hospitals resulted in the complete nationalization of the institution, which from 1860 until 1864, although it was administered by trustees, functioned as a "directory", annexed to the Ministry of Interior. By the law of October 16, 1864, the Trusteeship of Hospitals changed its name into the *Trusteeship of Civil Hospitals*. It constituted a distinct heritage of the state heritage with a character of public utility. All hospitals in the country passed under this organization. The budget of the new institution was to be voted by the Chamber of Deputies, as the state budget, and the administration of his property was to be made by rules of hospital asset management, applying the public accounting law under the control of the Court⁹.

Regarding the hospital which was to be built in Craiova, in Section IV of the report number 180 of November 18, 1832 addressed to General Kisseleff by the Trusteeship of Hospitals we learn that the members of the trusteeship declared that by the end of 1833 would have the sum of 80,000 lei to build the hospital and in 1834 it had to work with 30 beds.

On January 3, 1833, the Romanian Country Public Assembly debated a draft regulation of hospitals afterwards a committee was appointed consisting of: Michail Cornescu, Iancu Filipescu, Grigore Cantacuzino, Constantin Brătianu and Dumitrache Urian Medelneceru in order to study it and, subsequently, the regulations were passed. Article 47 specified the commitment of the Trusteeship to take all necessary steps to build a hospital in Craiova. We note that the existence of Craiova hospital was in close connection with the Trusteeship of Hospitals in Bucharest and depended much on the subsidy from the state budget.

By saving subsidy granted annually by the state, the Trusteeship purchased in 1838 homes of Zinca Golescu in 1838 with 1691 ducats, and made some arrangements to be able to function as a hospital.

Following a visit by Prince George Bibescu in Craiova, in 1843, he found the poor condition of the city hospital and ordered that with two thirds of revenues of Govora and Arnota estates (estates donated by Gheorghe Caragea to *Filantropia* hospital in Bucharest)

⁸ Serviciul Județean al Arhivelor Naționale Dolj (National Archives Service of Dolj County), fond Primăria municipiului Craiova, serviciul administrativ, f. 131 verso.

⁹ Ligia Livadă-Cadeschi, *De la milă la filantropie. Instituții de asistare a săracilor din Țara Românească și Moldova în secolul al XVIII-lea* (București: Nemira, 2001), 239.

to be constructed a new headquarters of the hospital by entrepreneur Gheorghe Caneciu under the supervision of the magistrate of Craiova¹⁰.

Although construction of *Filantropia* hospital in Craiova began in 1846, it was not ready by 1850. Then Prince Barbu D. Știrbei addressed the Faith Department on February 22, 1850 and decided to be taken the hospital building by "*government on behalf of the magistrate, with plain inventory*"¹¹ in the state it was during that time.

On October 29, 1851, the city magistrate reported to Faith Department that the hospital was nearly ready to be put into operation, but had no money to complete the work and nor the means to maintain it. As a result, on November 15, 1852, it was decided that the city council of Craiova and the magistrate to take care of good development of affairs in this hospital. But the city council complained to the prince that it was too burdened with the support of the hospital, which led him to the decision that from January 1, 1853 Trusteeship of Hospital to pay annual charges for patients from "*lawful fund of Hospitals House*"¹².

In early 1853 the hospital started functioning with 30 beds and an annual income of 39950 lei.

In the inauguration year, 1856, the number of beds increased to 100 and was maintained by the Trusteeship of Civil Hospitals until 1 July 1865. Since that time, the Government did not grant any subsidy and intervened with the local and county councils to allocate grants necessary for the development of the hospital. Both councils promised to pay these subsidies, so that the Trusteeship continued to manage the hospital, until 1 May 1866 when, due to the fact that local authorities did not pay any subsidy, it notified the Minister of the Interior that the decision was taken to close the hospital¹³. The situation of financial crisis experienced by the city treasury was confirmed by other measures taken by the town hall as well giving up the only dentist in town, occupied by the Transylvanian doctor Andrei Lauterbach and reducing the number of midwives from four to two¹⁴.

Interior Minister intervened again to county and municipal councils, but neither this time local authorities did not fulfilled their commitments, so the Trusteeship of Civil Hospitals reported the Minister of Interior that from January 1, 1867 hospital administration from Craiova would be abandoned.

The visit of Prince Carol of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen (1839 - 1914) in Craiova, in May 1867 led to a notable revival of the city's healthcare. On this occasion, the prince found that hospital network in Craiova was in a "*not sufficient state... compared to the vast population of the county and the city who need the help of these institutions*"¹⁵. It was not refilled neither by particular cabinet services. In the city being only registered the following doctors: Iosif Viener, the Cojocarilor Street; Ion D. Corbeanu the Cojocarilor

¹⁰ Serviciul Județean al Arhivelor Naționale Dolj (National Archives Service of Dolj County), fond Primăria municipiului Craiova, serviciul administrativ, dosar 68/1907, f. 132.

¹¹ Serviciul Județean al Arhivelor Naționale Dolj (National Archives Service of Dolj County), fond Primăria municipiului Craiova, serviciul administrativ, dosar 68/1907, f. 133.

¹² Serviciul Județean al Arhivelor Naționale Dolj (National Archives Service of Dolj County), fond Primăria municipiului Craiova, serviciul administrativ, dosar 68/1907, f. 134.

¹³ Serviciul Județean al Arhivelor Naționale Dolj (National Archives Service of Dolj County), fond Primăria municipiului Craiova, serviciul administrativ, dosar 68/1907, f. 134 verso.

¹⁴ Luchian Deaconu and Otilia E. Gherghe, *Craiova de la Alexandru Ioan Cuza la Carol I 1859-1878* (Craiova: Sitech, 2000), 100.

¹⁵ Serviciul Județean al Arhivelor Naționale Dolj (National Archives Service of Dolj County), fond Prefectura județului Dolj, serviciul administrativ, dosar 8/1867, f. 277.

street; Alecu Andreescu, asistant surgeon the Cojocarilor Bucovăț street¹⁶. In August 1876, patients benefited from consultations of doctor Vlădescu, professor at the Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest and physician in Colțea hospital also arrived in town "to do surgery and physician in to treat poor people suffering from diseases of the eye and ear illness, and any other disorders"¹⁷.

Following the proposal of Dr. Carol Davila the number of beds increased from 25 to 120 and, starting from August 15, 1867, the *Filantropia* hospital was again included in the network of the Trusteeship of Civil Hospitals that committed to subsidize the hospital with 100,000 lei annually and Dolj County and town Hall of Craiova would contribute each with 60,000 lei annually for the establishment of a department of "maternity, obstetrician and ophthalmology"¹⁸.

Meanwhile the trusteeship decided the following:

- Amounts of money that the local authorities were granting the trusteeship from subsidies of previous years 1865-1866, to be paid without delay;
- Appoint medical and administrative staff that were considered necessary for the hospital;
- The trusteeship reserves the right to abandon the new hospital administration if local authorities do not fulfill their commitments regarding payment of subsidies.

Indeed the trusteeship fulfilled the commitment which they had made, but county and municipal councils did not granted the promised subsidies for the hospital. As a result, trusteeship told the local authorities that from January 1, 1870 would financially support only 25 beds in the *Filantropia* hospital in Craiova, - and this due to insistence of Interior Minister Manolache Costache Epureanu - following that the Town Hall and County Council to maintain another number of beds in the hospital¹⁹.

From 1870 to 1908, the hospital came under the administration of Craiova Municipality, but continued to receive a grant from the Trusteeship of Civil Hospitals in the amount of 60,000 lei. This period of 38 years was one of the hardest because City Hall did not deal with the smooth running of the hospital. Only due to the efforts of doctors Vercescu and Augustin the hospital was not closed. They fought with great difficulty with the indifference of the city government and managed to obtain from once in a while certain amounts of money in order to make small repairs of the hospital building. Also were obtained certain subsidies necessary for the development of the hospital.

Filantropia hospital in Craiova revenues were supplemented by donations from various magnanimous people, - as Dimitrie Haralamb, Luxița Gigurtu, Nicolae Califarof and Manolache Iovipale - who had received medical care in this hospital, and more. In 1866 *Madona Dudu* Church of Craiova donated 15750 lei to help *Filantropia* hospital.

After management of Sanitary Department within the Interior Ministry was taken in hand by Professor Dr. Ioan Cantacuzino, assisted by Professor Dr. Ioan Sion, this hospital was given many quantitative and qualitative improvements. The new leadership understood the hospital situation and due to their insistence, they managed to find the

¹⁶ Serviciul Județean al Arhivelor Naționale Dolj (National Archives Service of Dolj County), fond Prefectura județului Dolj, serviciul administrativ, dosar 4/1867, f. 24.

¹⁷ Serviciul Județean al Arhivelor Naționale Dolj (National Archives Service of Dolj County), fond Prefectura județului Dolj, serviciul administrativ, dosar 39/1876, f. 66.

¹⁸ Serviciul Județean al Arhivelor Naționale Dolj (National Archives Service of Dolj County), fond Prefectura județului Dolj, serviciul administrativ, dosar 39/1876, f. 306.

¹⁹ Serviciul Județean al Arhivelor Naționale Dolj (National Archives Service of Dolj County), fond Primăria municipiului Craiova, serviciul administrativ, dosar 68/1907, f. 135 verso.

necessary funds to increase and transform the hospital, which, since 1908, functioned with two major departments: internal medicine and surgery²⁰.

The first doctor in *Filantropia* hospital of Craiova was Pascali Antonovici, who is recorded in documents since 1845 when the hospital operated in homes of Zinca Golescu. He was followed by doctor Vlasto, helped by an economist, two assistants and few carers. In 1856, the year of the inauguration of the hospital, Caligary was the physician, after which the hospital management was taken over by the famous ophthalmologist Dr. Iosif Wilhelm Fabricius (1830-1888). This physician born in Brasov had a very good surgical preparation. After obtaining his doctorate in medicine in Vienna in 1860, he got specialized in ophthalmology and otorhinolaryngology, departments in which he performed numerous surgeries²¹. From this period dates the beginnings of otorhinolaryngology and ophthalmology in Craiova. Thanks to his professional and scientific activity he was appointed professor of ophthalmology at the Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest, in 1868, a position he held until 1870.

Starting with August 15, 1867, Dr. Ioan P. Vercescu (1840-1917) was appointed primary physician in *Filantropia* Hospital of Craiova, while Francis Fallon was secondary physician. Dr. Ioan P. Vercescu was the first Romanian physician of the hospital. He was born in the village Cerneti from Mehedinti County, where he attended elementary school. He graduated the School of Medicine that was founded by Carol Davila in Bucharest and the Faculty of Medicine of Turin, Italy, where he obtained a PhD in Medicine in 1864. He worked in the hospital *Filantropia* in Craiova for 12 years²², until 1891, and at the same time led the *Military Hospital* of Craiova, being a military doctor. After revision of February 16, 1868, the prefect of Dolj County found "admirable" condition of the *Filantropia* hospital both in terms of cleanliness as well as of the health care applied to patients. These improvements were attributed largely to Dr. Vercescu, who turned into good the hospital²³.

After the departure of doctor Vercescu, on June 18, 1891 was appointed another doctor in the person of Dr. Augustin (1859-1927), who through his activity was a representative physician of the hospital. Son of the priest Dimitrie Ionescu, from the Church Sfinții Voievozi from Roman, he was born on August 15, 1859. Upon graduation from seminary in his native city, he attended boarding school in Iasi, where he graduated in 1877. Then he enrolled in Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest, being assisted by the Prefecture of Roman with a monthly stipend of 40 lei. The name "Augustin" was given by his teacher in order to distinguish him from other students named Ionescu. In 1879 student Augustin was appointed external at *Brâncovenesc Hospital* in Bucharest, and in 1882 he became internal in the same hospital. He obtained a PhD in Medicine and Surgery in Bucharest on 9 May 1883. Then in May 15, 1883 he was appointed county physician in Roman. In 1886, after sustaining a contest he became primary physician of Gorj County.

He obtained the post of primary physician of the hospital *Filantropia* in Craiova following a contest on June 15, 1891²⁴. Doctor Augustin led the hospital facing a period of major financial shortcomings, between 1891-1908; however he performed the most

²⁰ Firescu, *Centenarul...*, 20.

²¹ Firescu, *Centenarul...*, 15.

²² Mariana Leferman et al., editor, *Repere spirituale românești. Un dicționar al personalităților din Dolj* (Craiova: Aius, 2005), 348.

²³ Mariana Leferman et al., editor, *Repere spirituale românești. Un dicționar al personalităților din Dolj* (Craiova: Aius, 2005), 348.

²⁴ Charles Laugier, „*Doctorul I. Augustin*”, in *Arhivele Olteniei* (VI, No. 29-30, ianuarie- aprilie 1927), 163-164.

difficult surgeries in both general surgery and in the most thorough ophthalmic interventions. He continued to work in the hospital until 1919, during that time two salons for children functioned, and into the courtyard of the hospital there were placed two barracks for contagious patients. One can say that the hospital *Filantropia* was the core of which was developed later specialized sections in Craiova. During the speech given in 1936 at the inauguration of Dr. Augustin bust, located in the courtyard of the hospital, Dr. Toma Voiculescu, - his successor in the office of to the department of internal diseases - said about that: "*I saw him working between 1907-1909 at this mixed hospital; with extremely low resources and he performed all kinds of surgical interventions that were presented to him, except those which required opening the abdomen, especially during the peasant uprisings of 1907, when the Filantropia Hospital was turned into a war hospital. As an ophthalmologist he performed all kind of eye surgery of the time (as Fabricius before). He performed the most difficult obstetrical interventions he assisted at all difficult performing (had ordered to be called himself and not only secondary doctor) at any hour of the night*"²⁵.

As President of the *Society for Prevention of Tuberculosis*, he wore special care of children affected by this disease and each year allocated financial means for hundreds of children in order for them to regain health in Techirgiol colonies²⁶.

From 1899, in addition to maternity of *Filantropia* hospital in Craiova functioned a rural midwives School class II, established by the Director of Health Services, Dr. Iacob Felix²⁷ and led by the hospital's primary physician, Dr. Augustin. The occurrence of such school with lower study program and lighter admission requirements was necessary because, in the second half of the nineteenth century, in the Old Kingdom only two midwives schools operated, in addition to maternities in Bucharest and Iași. These schools were financially maintained by The Trusteeship of Civil Hospitals in Bucharest and by the Trusteeship of House *Saint Spiridon* Hospital from Iasi, but it did not train a sufficient number of midwives. The cause of this deficit was the much too loaded program of study for midwifery schools, and admissibility requirements²⁸. During this period, in vast majority of cases, midwives duties were filled by women without medical training who lacked even a basic concept of asepsis and antisepsis, which led to high maternal and infant mortality in the first days after birth.

Initially the first hospitals appeared near churches, but also in the nineteenth century the Church was actively involved in the provision of health care. In this respect the trusteeship of Madona Dudu Church²⁹ built and maintained of its funds an institution hospital for patients with neuropsychiatric disorders. By 1860 this hospital was improvised in the cells of the church and had rather the characteristics of an asylum. The sufferings with all sorts of diseases were received here but also people without basic means of subsistence. In 1860 founder Ralian built a small hospital where patients began receiving skilled nursing. The first doctor here was Dr. Nicolae Hanselmann, who led the hospital until 1865. After him followed the doctors: Friendlaender Lazăr (1865), George Dimitriades (1865-1872), Iosif Wilhelm Fabricius (1872-1888), George Mileticiu (August 1888-April 1917). All of them contributed to the good reputation of *Madona-Dudu*

²⁵ Firescu, *Centenarul...*, 48.

²⁶ *Testamentul doctorului I. Augustin și discursurile rostite la înmormântarea sa* (Calafat: Tipografia „Progresul”, 1927), 23-24.

²⁷ Serviciul Județean al Arhivelor Naționale Dolj (National Archives Service of Dolj County) , fond Primăria Municipiului Craiova, serviciul administrativ, dosar 68/1907, f. 136.

²⁸ Iacob Felix, *Istoria igienei în România*, partea I (București: Institutul de Arte Grafice Carol Gobl, 1901), 23.

²⁹ Alexandru Olaru, *Interferențe medico-culturale* (Craiova: Scrisul Românesc, 1983), 174-188.

hospital of abroad. This was due to the establishment of the modern hospital built from the funds of the church trustees Madona-Dudu based on plans by architect Alexandru Săvulescu (1847-1902), one of the creators of the School of Architecture in Bucharest, in the period 1895-1902. He was also chairman of Romanian Architects Society, established in 1891. After the adjudication of the work by entrepreneur Giuseppe Trolli, on September 15, 1888 the construction of the new headquarters of the hospital was started. It was completed in the summer of 1890. The new facility was inaugurated on June 5, 1891, with the transfer of patients from the old premises of the hospital.

Another important hospital which bore the name of its donor was established due to the merchant Theodor I. Preda. He donated to local municipality his homes in Craiova³⁰, where initially the hospital functioned. He also donated the estates Cearângul and Stârcovița of Mehedinti County (total area of 2000 hectares). Those incomes provided necessary funds required for the functioning of the new hospital³¹. While the houses of the donor no longer matched intended purpose, nor in terms of space, nor of medical facilities, so a new headquarters of the hospital *Theodor I. Preda* was build and inaugurated on 14 February 1910. Houses from the street Mihail Kogălniceanu were sold, and the money was used for maintenance of the hospital. In addition to revenues from leasing left by Theodor I. Preda in the City Hall administration Craiova the hospital benefited from donations, which in 1906 amounted 70,000 lei.

As in the case of hospital *Filantropia*, all doctors³² contributed to its development. Doctor Vernescu insisted on, and worked hard to ensure the construction of new premises of the hospital, and Dr. Iosif Wilhelm Fabricius - who worked in all three major hospitals in Craiova benefited from: *Filantropia*, *Theodor I. Preda*, and *Madona-Dudu* - brought the fame of *Theodor I. Preda* hospital outside the borders due to thousands of successful eye surgery.

Even though in 1886, Dr. Râmnicăneanu³³ member of Superior Health Council, complained about irregularities in the administration of funds by the Town Hall Craiova that were left by Theodor I. Preda for hospital maintenance, yet it did much better financially than *Filantropia* hospital.

We can say that, despite material shortages, hospitals in Craiova benefited from exceptional physicians from professional point of view. They showed devotion to the sick led sometimes to the extreme of self-sacrifice and they also proved humanitarianism and unconditional love for our fellowmen.

³⁰ Serviciul Județean al Arhivelor Naționale Dolj (National Archives Service of Dolj County), fond Prefectura județului Dolj, serviciul administrativ, dosar 176/1869, f. 5, 6.

³¹ Serviciul Județean al Arhivelor Naționale Dolj (National Archives Service of Dolj County) , fond Prefectura județului Dolj, serviciul administrativ, dosar 300/1868, f. 1.

³² Dănuț Alexandru Nuță, „Din istoricul spitalului Theodor I. Preda din Craiova de la înființare până în primii ani ai secolului al XX-lea”, in *Analele Universității din Craiova*, Seria Istorie (series history), anul XIII (year XIII), no.. 2 (14)/2008 (Craiova: Universitaria), 139-147.

³³ Cristina Gudin et al., *Rapoarte sanitare în România modernă (1864-1906)* (Cluj-Napoca: Mega, 2010), 97-98.

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