Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital

HISTORICAL REVIEW

This first historical review is dedicated to the memory of the famous Croatian medical historian, Professor Mirko Dražen Grmek, who passed away in Paris on March 6, 2000. Professor Grmek graduated from the School of Medicine in 1951 and as early as the next year he headed the Medicine History Department of the Institute of Medical Research in Zagreb. He was the first Croatian physician with Ph.D. in the history of medicine. He defended his doctoral dissertation in 1958 in Zagreb. In 1971, he was awarded his doctor's degree in philosophy at Sorbonne in Paris, and in 1987 in classical philology and humanities in Lausanne. Professor Grmek wrote about twenty books, many of them internationally recognized. He was editor of the Croatian Medical Bibliography, Medical Encyclopedia, Liječnički vjesnik, Archives internationales

d'Histoire des Sciences, and History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences.

As a renowned historian of medicine and biological sciences in Croatia and in his second homeland, France, as well as in the world, he was honorary member of many academies, decorated with the French Legion of Honor order, etc.

Looking at his vast and highly valuable opus of writings, we have to cite a part of his text dedicated to the famous historian of medicine, Henry E. Sigerist: "It is quite embarrassing that all that powerful, impulsive will has vanished with the inevitability of death, and that such rich knowledge and experience, painstakingly collected over decades, have been simply wiped off and irretrievably lost" (Liječnički vjesnik 1957;79:438-40).

Vara preuzvisensk! Kojega cu sacarati kao a. sponen wasca proga muja, i kojin ste me osobito oaciloral Eun radofi de ca O zahralusti nemoje bisi goraz De mode Pary proughten. per visame wife cinio fo pri preakanti i porlowite mi usbi duraste i ujeto u doial same our veces a book. bolusci nalogilo - a jado. wien , Kad noton 9. prof. vogan sam so je noga prec. Vojuorie nam javi da se gosp. Capelia lato licho igrofeli pripo odfoudorusi Bacielila. Vare prouvifouth' usi kadi promjene vlakovi. e zvolite primiti moti ma Zagrel 15. 11 seo Phiere soneiji zahrela na lijen v

Fig. 1. The letter of prof. dr. Teodor Wickerhauser to the bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer in 1890.

Fig. 2. The letter of the bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer send to prof. dr. Teodor Wickerhauser in 1890.

So, for decades Professor Grmek collected numerous data on the Croatian medicine and Croatian physicians. Having explored the correspondence of Josip Juraj Strossmayer, Grmek found that Strossmayer had communicated in writing with one of the greatest physicians of our hospital, Professor Teodor Wickerhauser, who founded Surgical Department of the Hospital in 1890. As Professor Grmek says: "Under his leadership, a special 'school of surgery, the main seed-plot of the surgical knowledge in Croatia in the era before the foundation of the School of Medicine, was established". His followers Mašek, Durst, Blašković, Hühn and Florschutz were founders of the surgical specialties in Croatia.

In 1819, Professor Teodor Wickerhauser was appointed the first professor of the School of Medicine, along with his students, Professor Miroslav Čačković and Professor Dragutin Mašek. Original letters have been kept at the Archives of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.