ANNALES
UNIVERSITATIS MARIAE CURIE-SKŁODOWSKA
LUBLIN – POLONIA
VOL. XXIV, N 1, 17 SECTIO DDD 2011

Department of History of Medicine, Medical University of Lublin, Poland

MAŁGORZATA KORZENIOWSKA, ANDRZEJ WRÓBEL, EWA OBEL

History of pharmacy in Bełżyce, part. I – history of pharmacy in the years 1874-1945

Historia aptekarstwa w Bełżycach część I – historia aptekarstwa w latach 1874-1945

We exist as long as someone remembers us [1].
Carloz Ruiz Zafón[1]

We are motivated by memory, especially about the great people who, by their being have contributed to the development of science – especially medicine and pharmacy and shaped the attitude of a real doctor and pharmacist more than anything. Not wanting to let the passing time sent into oblivion, the merits of those, who first cared for good health of the local population, those who served with their knowledge and advice, helped the needy and were involved in charity. Among Lublin's physicians and pharmacists there are many such figures. Many of them appeared in numerous publications, including publication of books, and many still waiting for their turn. The following article is the first in a series designed to *Annals*, relating to the history of pharmacy and hospital industry, and teaching the history of pharmacy and medicine in the region of Lublin. Today we are trying to present the people and their places of work – pharmacies in Bełżyce.

At this point it is worth to recall the names of great doctors, respected community workers: Szymon Klarner, his son Józef, and Władysław Grażewicz [2, 3].

This article is the first approach to present the history of pharmacy in Bełżyce, from the inception of the city, and more specifically from the foundation of the first pharmacy there in 1874 until the present day.

According to the documents filed in The State Archives of Lublin Lucjan Osipowicz Czerwiński founded the first pharmacy in Bełżyce. He was born in 1835. He was a graduate of The Imperial Therapeutic and Surgery University in Warsaw. He was granted a diploma in pharmacy in 1860 [3]. Lucjan Czerwiński's pharmacy was originally located in a non-existent today building near the church (now the Partisan Street). In 1874 Czerwinski sent letters to the Head of the Province of Lublin, also to the Head of the Lublin District, asking for permission to establish a pharmacy [4].

[1] **Carlos Ruiz Zafón** (born Barcelona, 25 September 1964) is a Spanish novelist and journalist, the author of novels such as: *The Shadow of the Wind* and *The Angel's Game*

Positive decision was issued on 27 September, 1874; it emphasized a considerable remoteness of the pharmacy from other similar facilities [5].

Opening of the pharmacy took place in the presence of a special committee, which included District Physician of Lublin, pharmacy assessor and the governor.

On this occasion a special protocol was drawn up containing details about the external and internal design of the pharmacy [7]. Among them there were descriptions of depots where herbs were stored, lab facilities and equipment used to make up medicines. The Protocol also contains a list of books necessary to work and all medications that were available at that time. The text of this document takes the reader back to the nineteenth-century pharmacy as the description is very detailed.

Next to door there was a bell which was operated by pulling the cord. Using it, a patient could wake up chemist even at night. The Crest of the Russian Empire could be seen above the door. Pharmaceutical furniture was made of polished fine ashen wood. On the higher shelves "*there are porcelain and glass dishes placed, equipped with appropriate labels. In the lower part of the cabinets there are decorated shelves, with boxes containing herbs, roots, bark, flowers, etc. The boxes have relevant inscriptions, made with oil paint* (...)". For narcotic herbs there is a separate closet with drawers. Apart from that, Czerwinski stored mercury, arsenic and their preparations in separate cupboards. He used to have the key to the cupboard wherever he went. Fortunately, thanks to the advances in pharmaceutical sciences we do not have to use the "medicinal properties" of mercury today. The premises of the pharmacy included the attic too, where raw materials and herbs were dried and stored, and the basements, where the vehicles to produce ointments and water needed for prepare medicines were stored. Czerwinski cared about good equipment for his pharmacies, so there was a cutter for grinding raw materials, various sieves, a squeezer, an infuser, numerous mortars and evaporator, thermometers, scaled cylinders, funnels, pipettes. Pharmacy had its own laboratory and next to it there was a drying room. The laboratory was equipped with all necessary equipment for preparation and analysis of drugs.

The protocol includes a list of all chemicals available in the pharmacy, various substances like plant materials and their products, tinctures, spirits or extracts, etc. The list contains 736 components of drugs.

Lucjan Czerwiński was running the pharmacy until 1913. His pharmacy was taken over by Adam Tomaszewski, who bought this little business from Czerwiński.

Adam Tomaszewski, the son of Alojzy, was born 24 December1875 in Jaksice.

On 5 Sep., 1902 he obtained diploma of a pharmacy assessor at Warsaw University. From January 1903 he was the director of the Bilski's pharmacy in Kiev. From 1909 to 1912, he worked as the manager of the pharmacy in Łęczyca.

In 1913 he bought the pharmacy in Bełżyce and was running it until 1919.

He went down in the history of Bełżyce as a social worker and a good organizer, for example he was part of the Organizing Committee of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, the idea of which was born out after a disastrous fire in 1913 [8]. In May 1914 Adam Tomaszewski moved the pharmacy to a merchant house called Kjemnic house located more towards the town center, at the corner of Market Street and Kazimierska Street [9].



Fig. 1. Residents of Bełżyce in front of the building, where pharmacy of L. Czerwinski and A. Tomaszewski were placed

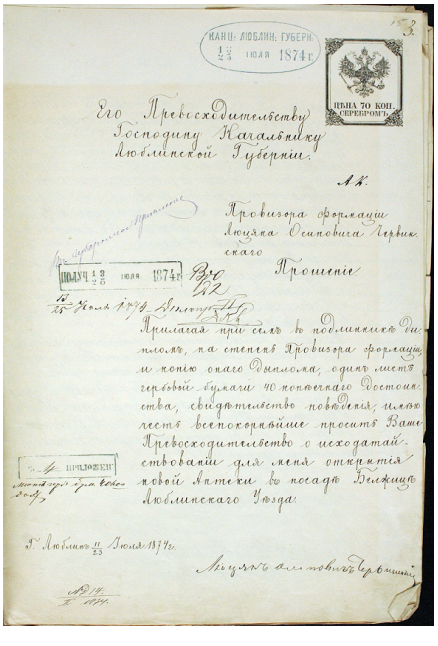


Fig. 2. Asking for permission to establish a pharmacy written to the Head of the Government of Lublin by Lucjan Czerwiński



Fig. 3. Pharmacy labels from pharmacy of Lucian Czerwiński, 1888



Fig. 4. Bełżyce – the buliding lodging the pharmacy between 1914-1964
(Scan of the manuscript of Czesław Kiełboń,: Bełżyce – Studium historyczno-urbanistyczne, Photo No. 103)

From the report of the audit carried out on 28 June, 1914 we learn that the assessor of pharmacy Adam Tomaszewski worked in the pharmacy, and he had an assistant student named Henryk Kowalewski, who worked as an apprentice. The pharmacy met all requirements [10].

On 7 May 1919 Tomaszewski sold his pharmacy in Bełżyce and bought half of the partnership share in the pharmacy located at 29 Krakowskie Przedmieście in Lublin, thus becoming the youngest of its co-owners [11].

From The Pharmaceutical Calendar dated 1921, we learn that the pharmacy manager in Bełżyce was Michael Jabłonowski. He obtained the license to practice as a pharmacist in 1913 in Charków. Before leaving for Bełżyce he had worked in a military pharmacy in Warsaw [12].

Henryk Kowalewski was another pharmacist and pharmacy manager, affiliated with the pharmacy in Bełżyce for about 18 years. He was born in 1895 in Rury Jezuickie (now one of the districts of Lublin [13]. Kowalewski obtained pharmaceutical diploma in Wilno as late as in 1928. He worked in a pharmacy in Bełżyce to 1932 and then he and his wife left for Warsaw.

In the years 1926-1927 (when H. Kowalewski studied in Vilnius) Wiktor Leśnikowski was running and managing the pharmacy. He was born on March 6, 1893 in Przasznysz. He graduated from the secondary school in Płock. In the archives of the Jagiellonian University the name of Wiktor Leśnikowski appears in the protocol of the entrance examination to get a master's degree in pharmacy. When Kowalewski returned to Bełżyce in 1928, Leśnikowski took a job as a chemist in the pharmacy in Piaski. [14]

In the early 1930s the pharmacy owner was Tadeusz Szniersztejn. This information is confirmed by the note in the Calendar of Pharmacy and the List of Pharmacists and Staff working in pharmacies in the province of Lublin in 1933.

Szniersztejn, received a diploma entitling him to practice as a pharmacist in Rostov (Russia) in 1918. Before coming to Bełżyce he had been a pharmacy manager in Rhiett's Successors Pharmacy in Janów Podlaski [15]. After leaving Bełżyce he settled in Warsaw, where he was co-owner of one of the local pharmacies [16].

Also an important figure was a Jew Anschel Lerner. He worked in the pharmacy in Bełżyce from 1932 to 1942 [17]. In the summer of 1942, during the search of the pharmacy by the Nazis, he was arrested. Lerner and Lerner's immediate family, his wife and son, are believed to have died in unknown circumstances. By the verdict of the District Court of November 6, 1946, Anschel Lerner, his wife Gizelda , maiden name Silbersztajn, and Lerner's son Mieczyslaw Robert were declared dead – Lerner's wife and son on April 30, 1942, and Anschel Lerner in November 1942. At the end of the war Helena Olszewska, holding the title of the master of pharmacy worked there.

On June 9, 1944 the building where the pharmacy was located witnessed tragic events.

On that day, by the order of Hans Walter, German policy executed 23 Poles brought from The Lublin Castle (which was a German prison at that time) in a public execution; among them there were some countrymen from a nearby village Podole arrested during the pacification on May 24, 1944. At present there is a Monument of Our Partisan Lady there, which commemorates that dramatic event.

In 1963 the pharmacy was moved to a newly constructed building of the Local Health Service Center located at 2 Bednarska Street. The Pharmacy has been located in this place until today. This place is also special. The land where the building of the Independent Public Health Care Center in Bełżyce stands, in the years 1940-1943 witnessed a dramatic extermination of Jews. In December 1940, by the power of the decree passed by Nazi authorities Jewish ghetto was set up. It was a place of concentration for Jews not only from Bełżyce but also from Lublin, Krakow, Szczecin, Saxony and Thuringia. The highest number of Jews was recorded in March 1942 and it was 4854 people [18].

To be continued.

REFERENCES

1. Zafón C.:The Shadow of the Wind. Penguin, 2004.
2. Studia z dziejów Bełżyc, 299, Bełżyce 2006.
3. Archiwum Państwowe w Lublinie (APL), Rząd Gubernialny Lubelski (RGL), Wydział Lekarski, (L), 14, 19, 1874.
4. APL, RGL, L II, 14, 3, 1874.
5. APL, RGL, L II, 14, 9, 1874.
6. APL, RGL, L II, 14, 19, 1874.
7. APL, RGL, L II, 14, 20, 1874.
8. Kronika Bełżyc, Izba Pamięci w remizie straży pożarnej.
9. APL, RGL, L II, 14, 19, 1914.
10. APL, RGL, L II, 43, 19,1914.
11. Wrobel A., Konstankiewicz A., Obel E.: Apteka przy ulicy Krakowskie Przedmieście 29 (dawniej 146) przedwojenna własność Antoniego Steckiego, Gustawa Haberlau i Adama Tomaszewskiego. Pamiętnik Farmaceutyczny Wileński1/97,39, Lublin1997.
12. Kalendarze Farmaceutyczne: 154, 1929; 328; 1934; 321, 1936; 387, 1939.
13. Księga Parafialna Parafii pod Wezwaniem Nawrócenia św. Pawła w Bełżycach, 342, 1915-1930.
14. Kalendarze Farmaceutyczne: 125, 1929; 375,1930; 330, 1932; 350,1936; 415, 1939.
15. Kalendarze Farmaceutyczne: 164, 1928; 428, 1930; 383, 1932.

16. Kalendarze Farmaceutyczne: 396, 1934; 410, 1936; 19, 1939.
17. APL, Urząd Wojewódzki Lubelski, Wydział Pracy, Opieki i Zdrowia [1919-1939], 532,19.
18. Jadczak St.: Bełżyce – monografia miasta i gminy, 24, Bełżyce 2002.

SUMMARY

The following article is the first in a series designed to *Annales*, and that relating to the history of pharmacy and hospitality, and teaching the history of pharmacy and medicine in the region of Lublin. Today we try to approximate the people and their places of jobs – pharmacies in Bełżyce. This article is the first part of work

According to the documents filed in The State Archives of Lublin Lucjan Osipowicz Czerwinski founded the first pharmacy in Bełżyce in 1874. L. Czerwiński's pharmacy was originally located in a non-existent today building near the church (now the Partisan Street).

Opening of the pharmacy took place in the presence of a special committee, which included District Physician of Lublin, pharmacy assessor and the governor. On this occasion a special protocol was drawn up containing details about the external and internal appearance of the pharmacy. Lucjan Czerwiński ran a pharmacy until 1913.

In 1913 Adam Tomaszewki bought the pharmacy in Bełżyce and ran it until 1919. He went down in the history of this town as a social worker and a good organizer. In May 1914 Adam Tomaszewski moved the pharmacy to a merchant house called Kjemnic house located more towards the town center, at the corner of Market Street and Kazimierska Street.

In the interwar period Michał Jabłonowski, Henryk Kowalewski, Wiktor Leśnikowski and Anschel Lerner worked in pharmacy.

During the Second World War the pharmacy was a witness to dramatic events, for example: arresting of Anschel Lerner by the Nazis, the public execution of 23 Poles and extermination of Jews.

STRESZCZENIE

Powyższy artykuł jest pierwszym z cyklu przeznaczonym do *Annales*, a odnoszącym się do historii aptekarstwa i szpitalnictwa oraz dziejów nauczania farmacji i medycyny w regionie lubelskim. Podjęto się próby odtworzenia dziejów aptekarstwa Bełżyc od momentu powstania miasta, a właściwie od momentu założenia pierwszej apteki w 1874 r., aż do czasów współczesnych. Ten artykuł jest pierwszą częścią opracowania.

Z dokumentów zgromadzonych w zasobach Archiwum Lubelskiego dowiadujemy się, że aptekę w Bełżycach założył w 1874 r. Lucjan Osipowicz Czerwiński. Jego apteka pierwotnie znajdowała się w nieistniejącym dziś budynku koło kościoła (obecnie ulica Partyzancka).

Otwarcia tej placówki dokonano w obecności specjalnej komisji, którą tworzyli lubelski lekarz powiatowy, asesor farmacji i wójt. Na tę okoliczność sporządzony został specjalny, obszerny protokół, zawierający informacje na temat wyglądu zewnętrznego apteki, rozmieszczenia pomieszczeń i wystroju wewnątrz.

W 1913 r. L. Czerwiński sprzedał swoją własność Adamowi Tomaszewskiemu, który prowadził ją do 1919 r. W maju 1914 r. A. Tomaszewski przeniósł aptekę do kamienicy kupca Kjemnica

znajdującej się w centrum miasta, tj. na rogu ulicy Kazimierskiej i Rynku. Adam Tomaszewski w historii miasta zaznaczył się jako dobry społecznik i organizator.

W okresie międzywojennym w aptece pracowali: Michał Jabłonowski, Henryk Kowalewski, Wiktor Leśnikowski i Anschel Lerner.

W czasie II wojny światowej, apteka stała się świadkiem tragicznych wydarzeń. Aresztowano Anschela Lernera, oraz eksterminowano Żydów bełżyckiego getta, a także rozstrzelano w publicznej egzekucji 23 Polaków.