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*History of the pharmacy in Bełżyce, part. II – functioning
of the pharmacy in the postwar period*

Historia aptekarstwa w Bełżycach część II – funkcjonowanie apteki w okresie powojennym

The following article is a continuation, which appeared in the previous issue of Annales Universitatis and which concerned the activity of the pharmacy and pharmacists since the foundation of pharmacy in 1874 until 1944.

Bełżyce town was liberated on July 26, 1944 by the Red Army. Although the city was not destroyed during the Nazi occupation, approximately 4,200 citizens were killed, which amounted to more than 60% of the town's population. Those left quickly tried to restore the local economy and trade. In that time Dr. Władysław Grażewicz, took care of residents. He was an excellent professional and social worker, whose aid to guerrillas during the occupation was invaluable. Dr. Grażewicz organized hospital and was treating patients there for 34 years [1]. At the end of the war Helena Olszewska worked in a pharmacy in Bełżyce. Thanks to her efforts, the pharmacy collaborated with the Home Army. Her husband, Lieutenant Czesław Olszewski was a defender of Warsaw in 1939 and the commander of the Army base in Bełżyce. He was killed during operation "Burza" on July 24, 1944 at the age of 32.

On November 6, 1946, the Court in Lublin established the sister of Ansel Lerner, (he had been running the pharmacy in Bełżyce since 1932 and died during the Second World War) Rachel Lerner, as the owner of the pharmacy, recognizing her as the sole and exclusive heir to property.

The list of professional staff working in pharmacies of the Lublin province shows that in 1947 in the Bełżyce pharmacy there were the following personsemployed:

- Kalinowska Zofia - Doctor of Philosophy in the field of pharmacognosy [2],
- Olszewska Helena - Master of Pharmacy [3],
- Szubartowska Maria - Master of Pharmacy [4],
- Lipart Wacława- assistant [5].

On February 11, 1947, Maria Szubartowska sent a request to the Governor's Office of the Lublin Province to the Department of Health asking for permission to buy the pharmacy in Bełżyce [6]. The Governor's Office granted such permission on February 13, 1947 [7]. On February 24, 1947, the younger of the Szubartowski's sisters, Maria signed the deed, which was a confirmation of purchasing the pharmacy with all its equipment, from Rachel Lerner, represented by Moses Zylbernadel, before

a notary Piotr Gnoiński. Less than three weeks later before the same notary appeared Szubartowski's sisters Maria and Helena Olszewska, who signed the official documents providing ownership of the pharmacy. On March 15, 1947, the Governor of Lublin gave concession to maintain and operate the pharmacy in Bełżyce in the Lublin district.

At that time, Bełżyce was a village with a population of approximately two thousand people. The pharmacy's income did not exceed 15 thousand zloty per month. The pharmacy had no more than 6 thousand clients monthly; however, the number of bought prescription drugs was quite high. The pharmacy employed two Masters of Pharmacy and one cleaner. Zofia Kalinowska worked at the Bełżyce pharmacy and she was a well-deserved Polish scientist.

Zofia Elżbieta Kalinowska was born on February 4, 1907 in Bircza (district of Przemyśl). She graduated on July 3, 1930, receiving a master's degree in pharmacy at the University of Poznań. Before defending her thesis, in May 1929, she took a job as a volunteer at the Department of Pharmacognosy, at the Poznań University and on January 1931, she became a senior assistant. During this time she married a friend of her study class, Kazimierz Kalinowski, the senior assistant at the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the same University. In 1939, after the expulsion to Koniecpol, she worked in a pharmacy, where she took up secret teaching. In 1942, she resided in Błazowa near Rzeszów, there she was teaching chemistry and English in local high school. After the liberation of Lublin (1944) she was appointed, together with her husband to organize a new university in Lublin. On July 1, 1945, she became the professor assistant in the Department of Pharmacognosy, at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. The state authorities rented an apartment for Zofia Kalinowska in Bełżyce and granted her the lease of the local pharmacy, which received the name *The Pharmacy at Providence*. Later in her biography Kalinowska wrote: [...] *from Bełżyce I had to travel to Lublin, 25 km 2 - 3 times a week. At the beginning, I traveled by horses and later for one and half year by truck. Since I had a possibility to live in Lublin I gave up the additional occupations in the pharmacy and from February 15, 1947 I only took charge of the scientific work at the Faculty of Pharmacy [...]* [8]. Together with her husband, she co-founded UMCS Faculty of Pharmacy. In 1950-51, as a contract professor, she worked as the dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical Academy, which initially was a part of the UMCS, however later it became a separated unit. At that time, until mid 1952, she was a lecturer of pharmacognosy, introduction to pharmacy and history of pharmacy. In July 1952, due to the intensification of ideological intrigues and accusations, Professor Kalinowska by the decision of the Ministry of Higher Education was deprived of the right to teach in Colleges and Universities. Because of this, she moved with her husband to Łódź. The years between 1952 and 1957 were a period of admirable efforts to maintain contact with science. Professor Kalinowska taught physics, chemistry, and biology in a secondary school. She also conveyed her knowledge of pharmacology and pharmacognosy to pharmaceutical technical students in Łódź. During this period, she also gave a lecture at the Technical University of Łódź commissioned in the field of herbal industry, therapeutic essential oils, food concentrates and vitamins. She also maintained contacts with the Polish Pharmacopoeia Commission at the Medicines Institute in Warszawa. In October 1958, she received the position of associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry in Łódź, where she worked until October 1966. At the end of 1966, Professor Kalinowska received a proposal to transfer to Olsztyn, in order to create

a Department of Toxicology at the local Veterinary Department in the newly established Agriculture College. Professor Kalinowska is the author and a coauthor of more than 100 publications, of which a significant part was published in English. She supervised six doctoral dissertations, one habilitation and about 70 master's theses. The spectrum of research conducted by Professor Kalinowska is very extensive. It includes the history of pharmacognosy and herbal medicine, chemistry, medicine, pharmacology and toxicology. Professor Zofia Kalinowska was an excellent teacher and a good speaker, well prepared for the most difficult discussions. She spoke several languages including German, English, French, Russian, and Latin and was also fluent in Italian and Czech. She best relaxed while listening to classical music and played the piano very well. She enjoyed excellent health and a nimble mind. Uncompromising, deeply believing, wholeheartedly devoted to science. Zofia Elżbieta Kalinowska died suddenly at the age of 90 on February 16, 1997 [9] [10].

Szubartowski's sisters Helena and Marianna (Maria) brought a great contribution to the development of the local pharmacy.

Szubartowska Helena was born on February 28, 1912 in Bełżyce. She was the daughter of Konstanty and Wiktoria. She had three siblings, a 6 years older brother Stanisław, a younger sister Marianna, and a younger brother Jan. Her father died early, in 1919, at this time Helena was only 7 years old. She graduated from high school in 1933. After a year break, she went to Poznań, and there she passed the exams to the Department of Pharmacy at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. She received her diploma on June 24, 1937. After graduating, she began working in a pharmacy in Zielonka near Warszawa, where she spent one year. Then for half a year she worked as a master of pharmacy in Włochy, near Warszawa, and then for a year in Zaklików. She spent the time of the Nazi occupation with her family in Bełżyce, she married Czesław Olszewski in 1939. During the war, she cooperated with Home Army, and had the nickname "Birch" (pol. Brzoza). Since that time she was working in a pharmacy in Bełżyce. From September 1955, she began working in a Primary School and High School in Bełżyce as a chemistry teacher. In 1959, she got a full-time job in the hospital pharmacy at the "Old Hospital". At the hospital pharmacy in Bełżyce she was working until 1972. For a few months, she worked in both the hospital pharmacy and the school. In addition, she also helped her sister Maria in running her pharmacy, and did the common housework. She was also running a small private laboratory, located at the pharmacy. Helena Olszewska actively participated in the social life of the city; she belonged to the working committee for the development of a school located at Bychawska Street, the gym building and the dormitory. She was interested in opera, operetta and theater. She died in 2009.

Szubartowska Maria was born on June 25, 1914 in Bełżyce [11]. She graduated from the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Poznań in 1938. As a master of pharmacy, she worked for a year in Warszawa. Because of hostilities the pharmacy she worked in and her apartment was destroyed, thus she returned to her family in Bełżyce. Here she worked as a pharmacist from May 1, 1945. Then from October 1, 1945 to 15 May 1948 she was working as a senior assistant at the UMCS Department of Pharmacognosy. She died on November 27, 1987.

It is worth to mention that the Szubartowski sisters enjoyed a good reputation among residents, who emphasize their professionalism and reliability until today. The interviews show that they willingly advised and helped those in distress twenty-four hours a day. For many years Jan

Szubartowski, the younger brother of Helena and Maria was also associated with the pharmacy. He was working there as an accountant and financial clerk from January 1, 1951 to November 30, 1982. After his retirement, his wife took over his duties.

In the pharmacy in the 40-ties of the twentieth century Wiesława Lipart worked, (maiden name Langenfeld) as well. She was born in Lwów on October 27, 1900 as the daughter of Ferdynand and Jadwiga. She got the title of assistant pharmacists in June 29, 1922 at the University of Lwów. In 1922, she married Kazimierz, a Polish Army officer who in 1939 went to war and as is described by Wiesława Lipart in her biography “disappeared without a trace”. She is the mother of Janusz who was born in 1928. The course of her career arranged as follows: Between the years 1918 and 1928, she worked in Doctor Jan Poratyński's pharmacy in Lwów. After several years break, in September 1944 she began working in a pharmacy in Błażowa held by Doctor Kazimierz Kalinowski. Probably together with the Kalinowski's family she came to Bełżyce because from October 27, 1945, she worked in the local pharmacy, which was then leased by Dr Zofia Kalinowska. Since 1951, she worked in the pharmacy No. 86 in Opole Lubelskie, and in September 1953, the Head of Social Pharmacy moved her to the Social Pharmacy No. 72 in Karczmiska, where she became the manager. She was working there for 10 years, and in June 1963, she returned to work in the pharmacy in Opole Lubelskie [12]. She died on May 15, 1967. She was an active member of the League of Women. What is more Ms. Lipart, in memories of Bełżyce residents enrolled as a person of full of kindness, showing understanding and professionalism.

In subsequent years, the state authorities did not facilitate the running of pharmacies, because they implemented multi-faceted mechanisms, which caused the destruction of Polish private pharmacies. State authorities took over the wholesale distribution of drugs, which consequently led to state pharmacies being supplied first and the private ones omitted. The latter had difficulties with ensuring proper in terms of quality and quantity of assortment. As a result, private pharmacies were often unable to meet the needs of the society. What is more, in 1949 State authorities raised turnover and income taxes for owners and leaseholders of private pharmacies. Pharmacies quickly fell into financial problems, and their owners lost their motivation to continue their business activity. On January 8, 1951, the communist parliament passed legislation on the acquisition of all private pharmacies. Due to this, private pharmacies were nonexistent for over 38 years. In the Lublin province over 113 pharmacies, including the pharmacy No. 13 in Bełżyce were taken over by the Pharmacy Enterprise of Lublin.

Despite this, the Bełżyce pharmacy's staff carried out their duties conscientiously, which is portrayed by one of the control protocols, which states:

[...] The pharmacy prepares galenic preparations in its own laboratory. The analytical laboratory is poorly equipped thus there are only few analyses conducted here. The pharmacy possesses a water distillation apparatus. In terms of supplies, the condition is satisfying. The pharmacy does not have significant deficiencies. When checking the amount of intoxicants the entries in the books of control are up to date. Arrears in this regard were not found and the amount of intoxicants is consistent with the amount listed in the control book. The basement is dry and bright, however the walls require plastering. . Signed, MPharm Józef Wójcik [13].

On November 1, 1955, the Company of Lublin Pharmacists appointed MPharm Henryka Wrońska, who had been previously working in Social Pharmacy No. 2 in Lublin, as the director of the Social Pharmacy No 13.

Wrońska was born on August 29, 1928 in Lublin. She graduated from the Secondary School of Chemical Technology in Lublin. She obtained a master's degree in pharmacy at the Medical Academy. From January 12, 1954 until November 1, 1955, she was working in the Social Pharmacy No. 2 in Lublin. Then she received a manager's position in Belżyce pharmacy, which she held until the beginning of September 1962 [14].

In 1956, Belżyce town was raised to the rank of a district town, which heralded the acceleration of the development of the city. At that time, the conditions of the building in which the pharmacy was located left much to be desired. It was situated in an old building, which had two rooms and storage. What is more, there was no running water or sanitation, and in the middle of the main room there was an iron stove. The furniture was old and worn, and in the drawers and at the back of pharmacy sacks of herbs were laying around.

During that time, approximately 9500 people lived in the Belżyce district. There were four Health Centres, one Cooperative Community Centre and three places with paramedical practitioners.

At the end of 1958 in the Belżyce pharmacy two new masters of pharmacy, including Leokadia Król were hired. Working hours of the pharmacy were changed, and it was now opened between 8.00a.m – 8.00p.m. The Belżyce pharmacy was bestowed to the rank of a county pharmacy [15].

The protocol of the audit for the Social Pharmacy No. 13 dated to December 20, 1961 prepared by the County Supervisor Maria Szubartowska states:

[...] The medicaments lie in drawers and cabinets tightly, sometimes one on the other, which makes it difficult to find the necessary ones. The pharmacy was to be moved this year to new premises, however, since the new building is not finished the transfer will take place in the first quarter of 1962. Two months ago, in the current pharmacy, plumbing was done, which greatly facilitated the distillation of water and contributed to improving the health status of the property. The revision of the stock on the selves showed no expired or withdrawn from the market products. [...] When checking the prescriptions from the period from 1-15 November 1961, substantial errors in the measurement were not found. [...] [16].

The content of the report is proof of the staffs' diligent work, despite the difficult accommodation conditions. On July 26, 1962, the management of the pharmacy was given over to Leokadia Król, and in the same year the pharmacy was moved to a new beautiful location, which fully corresponded to the requirements of the Ministry of Health and Welfare. Five rooms were adjusted for the purpose of the pharmacy all equipped with running water and central heating.

In the files of the National Archives there is a record of commissioning the Social Pharmacy No. 13 in Belżyce that states: *Provincial Pharmaceutical Inspector, Director of Pharmacy Board of Lublin and his deputy, attended the opening of the new pharmacy on October 10, 1962. The new pharmacy premises are composed of six rooms and a basement and are located in the building of the Health Department along with the District Clinic. Pharmacy premises are large, bright and have a modern design. There is sufficient number of cabinets and shelves to allow proper distribution and storage of medicines. The receptacles are typical, aesthetic, with ground stoppers and inscriptions. A recipe is equipped with a set of new equipment. The basement is big and dry. There are no counters to deal with people during duty hours. Central heating is not running. These shortcomings are to be completed shortly [...] [17].*

Together with the transfer of the pharmacy to the new premises its sales rapidly increased, this was also largely an outcome of the opening of a new, equally beautiful Specialist District Clinic located in the same building. At that time, the pharmacy had nine thousands customers and performed 600 complex prescriptions per month. The pharmacy also served night shifts. Employed in the pharmacy were two freshly graduated Masters of Pharmacy. Starting from that year, the holiday practice for students from the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University of Lublin was established. Resilience of the pharmacy increased from year to year. The cooperation with the Physicians Board was very effective; the pharmacists informed them on the latest drugs, their action and chemical composition. Pharmacists organized talks and were giving lectures on the following topics *Harmfulness of Drug abuse, Do not be afraid, but beware of tuberculosis. Your child at home and at school, Do you know how to protect your child against diseases? Advantages and disadvantages of using pesticides*. In the District House of Culture from March, 11 to March 18, 1963, there was an exhibition on the harmfulness of alcohol, to the creation of which, also personnel of the Pharmacy No 13 contributed. In 1964, the pharmacy in Bełżyce participated in the National Competition for the most beautiful window exhibition. Due to the absence of an appropriate window, the display was placed on a table in the expeditionary room. The theme of the exhibition was *edible and poisonous mushrooms*. Every other day the mushroom exhibits were exchanged because the exhibition was composed of fresh edible mushrooms and dummy poisonous ones, all arranged in moss. The exhibition attracted huge interest among pharmacy customers. For the first two weeks, whole families came to see it, especially mothers with children. It was an extremely useful lesson, learning to distinguish edible mushrooms from poisonous ones. Exhibition passed provincial eliminations, but was not recognized by the national committee because it was not placed in the window. In 1966, the pharmacy No. 13 began to cooperate with the League of Women and the State Public Library. At the school in Bełżyce the pharmacists gave a lecture entitled "lice." On April 30, 1967 the newspaper, "The Standard of the People" posted a note about participation of MPharm Leokadia Król on the White Sunday in the Borzechów village. In 1969, the pharmacy collaborated with Alcohol Preventive Committee and the Rural Womens' Circle. They organized two exhibitions, and a number of lectures were delivered, e.g. *Protecting health from pesticides and plant protection products, Personal and environmental hygiene, Abuse of drugs*.

MPharm Leokadia Król worked in the pharmacy to 1984, the next director of pharmacy was MPharm Jan Frąk. The described above pharmacy has been existing up till now.

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SUMMARY

This article is a follow-up study, which appeared in the previous issue of *Annales Universitatis* concerning Bełżyce pharmacy history after World War II. On November 6, 1946, the Court in Lublin established Rachel Lerner, the sister of Anschel Lerner, (who was running the pharmacy in Bełżyce since 1932, and died during the Second World War), as the owner of the pharmacy, recognizing her as the sole and exclusive heir to property. The sisters Maria Szubertowska and Helena Olszewska bought the pharmacy from her,. For a year and a half Dr. Zofia Kalinowska was a tenant of the pharmacy, who also co-founded Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Marcia Curie Skłodowska in Lublin (UMCS). In the years 1945-1951 Wiesława Lipart coming from Lwów, worked in the pharmacy. On January 8, 1951 the pharmacy in Bełżyce was taken over by the Pharmacy Enterprise of Lublin. Since 26 July, 1962 MPharm Leokadia Król was the pharmacy manager. In the same year the pharmacy was moved to new premises at the Health Centre at the Bednarska Street. Here the pharmacy is still located. The Pharmacy employees have been engaged in national-liberation, social and scientific activities.

Keywords: Bełżyce, Anschel Lerner, Rachel Lerner, Maria Szubertowska, Helena Olszewska, Zofia Kalinowska, Wiesława Lipart, Leokadia Król

STRESZCZENIE

Powyższy artykuł stanowi kontynuację opracowania z poprzedniego numeru *Anales* dotyczącego powojennej historii apteki w Bełżycach.

6 listopada 1946 r. Sąd Grodzki w Lublinie przekazał aptekę Racheli Lerner, siostrze Anschela Lenera, uznając ją za jedyną i wyłączną spadkobierczynię po aptekarzu. Od niej aptekę kupiły siostry Maria Szubertowska i Helena Olszewska. Przez półtora roku dzierżawcą

apteki była dr Zofia Kalinowska, w latach 1950-1951 p.o. Dziekana Wydziału Farmaceutycznego UMCS W Lublinie, która po wyzwoleniu (od 1944 r.) współorganizowała ten Wydział kierując zorganizowanym od podstaw Zakładem Farmakognozji (1945-1952), wykładając ponadto propedeutykę i historię farmacji. W latach 1945-1951 w aptecę pracowała lwowianka Wiesława Lipart. 8 stycznia 1951 r., po tzw. „upaństwowieniu aptek”, placówkę tę przejęła Centrala Aptek Społecznych Oddział w Lublinie [18]. Od 26 lipca 1962 r. apteką kierowała mgr farm. Leokadia Król. W tymże roku apteka została przeniesiona do nowego lokalu przy Ośrodku Zdrowia przy ulicy Bednarskiej, gdzie funkcjonuje do dzisiaj. Pracownicy apteki angażowali się w działalność narodowo-wyzwoleńczą, naukową i społeczną.

Słowa kluczowe: Bełżyce, Anschel Lerner, Rachel Lerner, Maria Szubertowska, Helena Olszewska, Zofia Kalinowska, Wiesława Lipart, Leokadia Król



Fig. 1. The concession for maintaining and keeping the 'normal' pharmacy in Bełżyce, granted to MPharm. Maria Szubartowska on March 15, 1947 (Private collection of Teresa Baranowska)



Fig. 2. Professor Zofia Kalinowska at the ceremony of receiving the Doctor Honoris Causa of Lublin Medical University („Alma Mater”, 1995, No. 5 [14], p.36).



Fig. 3. Pictured from right Marianna Szubartowska, Teresa Olszewska, Mr. Anasiewicz – resident of Belżyce, Helena Olszewska. Photo probably dates from 1951 (Private collection of Teresa Baranowska)



Fig. 4. Helena and her daughter Teresa Olszewska, in the background the pharmacy in Bełżyce, photo from the early 1950s. (Private collection of Teresa Baranowska)



Fig. 5. Waclawa Lipart (Files of Waclawa Lipart, Archive of PZF Cefarm-Lublin SA)



Fig. 6. Henryka Wrońska (Archive of PZF Cefarm-Lublin S.A.)



Fig. 7. Leokadia Król while making a medicine. (Private collection L. Król)