

СТОПІНКИ ІСТОРИЇ

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V. S. Androukh

Obstetrician-Gynecologist (to the 165th Anniversary of Shchasnyi-Selskyi's Birth)

Dolyna Children's Hospital, Dolyna, Ivano-Frankivsk region, Ukraine

E-mail: andruch@rambler.ru

Abstract. The article is devoted to the life, professional, scientific, social and political activities of an obstetrician-gynecologist – Feliks Shchasnyi-Selskyi.

Keywords: *physician; obstetrician-gynecologist; life*

There is a memorial plate on the front facade of the sanatorium “Viktoryia” situated at the foot of the mountain Yasna Hora in Dolyna district, Ivano-Frankivsk region (Fig.1). The inscription to read is as follows “Scientist and public figure, a sincere friend and ascetic of the Great Stonemason – physician Feliks Shchasnyi-Selskyi lived and worked in Vyhodivka”.

Unfortunately, this name is not well known to the medical community. Although, his scientific heritage was studied by the scientists of Lviv Medical University – M. Oborin, O. Sozanskyi and M. Kassaraba; his social and political activities were studied by a writer D. Yusyp. However, the best appreciation was given by those he helped during his daily self-sacrificing work.

Feliks Shchasnyi-Selskyi was born in 1852 in the village of Kolodnytsia near Stryi (Fig 2). From 1872 to 1880 he was studying at a Medical Faculty of the University of Vienna. He worked as an obstetrician-gynecologist in clinics of professors Khrobak, Rudolf, Zakhulous. Later, he became an assistant working with famous professor K. Rokitanskyi at the Maria-Theresa Hospital.

In 1883, he moved to Lviv, where he worked as the head of the Obstetrical and Gynecological Department of Lviv Municipal Hospital. While working, he carefully studied and scientifically substantiated his medical surveillance and since 1887 his original scientific works were published in scientific and medical journals.

In 1897, Feliks Shchasnyi-Selskyi held the position of a deputy head of the Mathematical-Natural-Medical section of Shevchenko Scientific Society founded in Lviv in 1893. It equaled to the status of the Academy of Sciences by the level of its scientific works. In 1897, the section decided to publish scientific papers in Ukrainian only in order to improve scientific language. The article “Mechanisms and Pathological Variations of the Uterus” written by Feliks Shchasnyi-Selskyi was published in the first collection of scientific papers.

In 1899, the scientist was elected as a full member of Shevchenko Scientific Society. He was appointed as a Chairman

of the Medical Board of the Mathematical-Natural-Medical section. This appointment was the recognition of his scientific activities in studying uterine diseases, which were usually presented by him in scientific papers. The depth and relevance of his scientific developments at the global level are confirmed by numerous statements about him. In 1992, the professor of the Obstetrical and Gynecological Department of Lviv Municipal Hospital Byblitskyi wrote that the ideas expressed in the Feliks Shchasnyi-Selskyi's works will not perish and in the future scientists will repeatedly return to them. German professor Olshhauzen said enthusiastically that the works of the Ukrainian scientist deserved the greatest attention. It especially relates to his works such as: “Mechanisms of Normal and Pathological Changes in the Uterus”, “A Few Words about the Retroversion of the Uterus”, “Controversial Issues Concerning the Orientation of the Uterus”. Only specialists can truly evaluate the fundamental nature of his works; we focus on the fact that they were written in Ukrainian. Hence, the implementation of scientific medical terms in Ukrainian language started.

Feliks Shchasnyi-Selskyi is known as a public figure and writer as well. Being in funds, the doctor financially assisted the publications of journals “Druh” and “Hromadskyi druh” founded by I. Franko and M. Pavlyk. He published his memories, reviews, artistic and publicistic works, critical essays there. In 1907, Feliks Shchasnyi-Selskyi signed the appeal to the Ukrainian citizens in the protection and release of arrested students of Lviv University who demanded to perform teaching in their native Ukrainian language. The doctor was rewarded for such activity by the Austrian “imperial grace” with 1 month sentence. In 1913, he was recommended by the Austrian “imperial grace” for the Supreme Council of Health of Austria-Hungary being awarded with the Order of Franz Joseph.

In 1914, the physician retired and settled in Vyhodivka. Being a good doctor, he treated the peasants, helped women, especially in case of pathological delivery. The scientist shared his experience with those who showed a propensity for medicine; he provided them with medical books as well. Since 1919, Feliks Shchasnyi-Selskyi worked as a district doctor in Dolyna district.

On May 22, 1922 the peasants from Vyhodivka and neighboring villages, friends and colleagues from Lviv, Drohobych and Stanislav followed the doctor to his grave. The governmental system of that time made all efforts to erase his name from the history. However, over time, the loss of such person has become more appreciable. Therefore, our task is to return the blessed memory of this outstanding personality.

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Fig.1. Memorial plate on the front facade of the sanatorium “Viktoryia”



Fig.2. Physician Feliks Shchasnyi-Selskyi