

HUNGARIAN-GREEK MEDICAL RELATIONS IN THE 18-19TH CENTURIES

During the Eighteenth Century a great number of Greeks came to Hungary partly to escape from the Turks and partly because they expected to get rich quickly.¹ Their cleverness and the customs regulations enabled them to lay hands upon a great part of the country's commerce and they soon acquired considerable wealth.² Material prosperity gave the Greek settlers the opportunity to improve their cultural attainments. They always regarded it as their main task to take care of two things which united the Greek Diaspora — language and religion — in school and church.

The Greeks of Hungary were at the same time interested in other spheres of intellectual life, in history, in jurisprudence and in education. In the field of natural science they occupied themselves mainly with medicine. In the course of our researches the following evidence was found of the interest taken by Greeks in Hungarian i. e. Western medicine.

Athanasios Christopoulos, the great poet of the Greeks, called also the Modern Greek Anacreon (1772-1849) began his medical studies in Buda.³ There also as a medical student worked Dimitrios Panajotes who originated from Siatista in Macedonia and whose dissertation on the causes of diseases appeared in Pest in 1822.⁴ Georgios Rosa who in his work "Untersuchungen über die Romanier oder sogenannten Wlachen" published in 1808, examined the problem of the origin of Cinzars, was likewise a student of the same medical faculty in Pest.⁵ It was in 1826 that the Macedonian Demetrios Vikellas, who was also interested in literature, obtained his medical diploma in the Hungarian capital. Kosma Trandaphyl printed in Buda a thesis in 1837 with the title "Bases et acida plantarum acrium" for the doctoral degree in pharmaceutical chemistry.⁶ Tivadar Margo (1816-1896), whose ancestors came from Macedonia to Hungary and carried on trade there in Ercsi, Adony, Rà-

1. Horváth, E.: Ujgörögök. Budapest 1943.

2. Schäfer, L.: A görögök vezető szerepe Magyarországon a korai kapitalizmus kialakulásában. Budapest 1930.

3. Pecz, V.: Christopoulos élete és munkái. Akadémiai Ertesítő 3, 1892, 140-141.

4. Horváth, E.: Magyar-görög bibliográfia. Budapest 1940. 46. shortened : MGB.

5. Horváth, E.: MGB 41-42.

6. Horváth, E.: MGB 56.

calmàs, obtained his medical diploma in 1840 at the University of Pest where later on he was appointed to the Chair of Zoology and Anatomy. He was the pioneer of Darwinism in Hungary and his scientific work was eulogised by Bela Entz in 1898 in a commemorative speech delivered at the Academy.⁷ One of the most renowned of the Greek physicians in Hungary was Demetrios Argenti,⁸ doctor at Vác (1809-1893). His dissertation on headache was published in 1836.⁹ His treatise on homeopathy went into several editions.¹⁰ The Argenti family derived its origin from the island of Chios. His father, a well-to-do merchant in Vác, claimed kinship with the Viennese merchant family Argenti.¹¹

Joannes Apostolovics, who obtained his medical diploma in Halle in 1757, came of a servianised Greek family. His thesis appeared under the title "Modus quo affectus animi in corpus humanum agunt generatim." In the dedication appears the following statement: "Ego ex incluta natione serbica et primus forte, qui ad medicas scientias animum adplicuit." During the same period there was working at Halle the physician David Samuel Máдай¹² whose treatise "Kurze Nachrichten von dem Nutzen und Gebrauch einiger bewährten Medicamenten" which was printed there was translated by Joannes Adami¹³ in Nagyszeben into Modern Greek and afterwards reprinted (1756, 1766). Another work of Máдай which was also translated into Greek was published in Halle in 1752 by Augustus Theophilus Mayer.¹⁴ It was during the same period that Dimitrios Karakases, a young Greek of Pest from Siatista carried out his medical studies.¹⁵ The rapprochement between the Protestant University of Halle and Hungarian Orthodoxy is attested by the fact that J. Apostolovics and D. Karakases stayed in Halle towards the middle of the 18th century. At the same time the two denominations cooperated not only in scientific matters but also in the sphere of religion.¹⁶

Evidence exists that the Greek doctor Michael Schendos worked at the

7. Természettudományi Közlöny XLVII. Szinnyei, J.: Magyar írók. VIII. 565-571.

8. Karcsu, A.: Vác város története. Vác 1800. IX. 284-288.—Borsa, G.: Argenti Döme. Communicationes ex Bibliotheca Historiae Medicae Hungarica. 30, 1964, 137-150.

9. Horváth, E.: MGB 56.

10. Horváth, E.: MGB 57.

11. Laios, G.: 'Ο ἐν Βιέννῃ ἐμπορικὸς οἶκος Ἀργέντη. Athens 1960.

12. Szinnyei, J.: Magyar írók VIII. 241-242.

13. Vécsey, T.: Werbóczy görögül. Századok 28, 1894, 485-489.

14. Deliales, N. P.: Κατάλογος ἐντύπων Δημοτικῆς Βιβλιοθήκης Κοζάνης. 1. Μῆ-ρος. Θεσσαλονίκη 1948. Nr. 545.

15. Lioufis, P.N.: Ἱστορία τῆς Κοζάνης. Athens 1924. 62.

16. Winter, E.: Die Pflege der west- und südslawischen Sprachen in Halle im 18. Jhdt. Berlin 1953.

beginning of 18th century in several towns of Transylvania.¹⁷ Francia Boraros, father of John Boraros, judge at Budapest, himself of Greek origin, was for

a while a surgeon in Győr.¹⁸

We have evidence that the Moldavian physician Konstantinos Rales was staying at Pest in the year 1811.¹⁹

Georgios Sakellarios,²⁰ Georgios Murates²¹ and Johannes Haris²² all Greeks from Hungary, graduated at the

University of Vienna. The first two returned to their native land whereas the

third became practitioner in Hungary. A well-known translation into Modern

Greek of a Latin history of physiology was published in 1823 by the Thessalian-born

physician Grigorios Pulios.²³

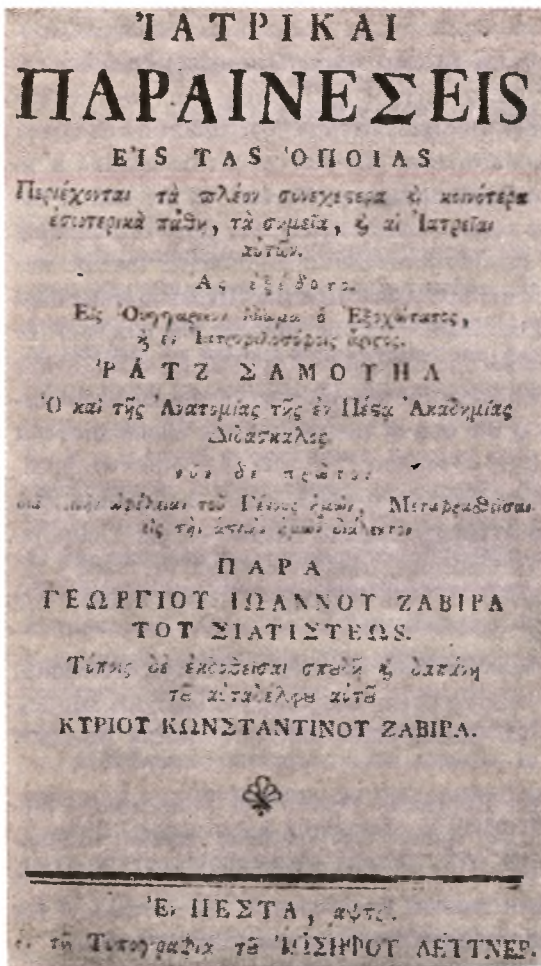
He may have been of the same family as the physician Michael Poule of Macedonia

who obtained citizenship in Buda in 1791. A very well-known physician in Pest

towards the middle of the last century was Manuel Terczy (1799-1859) a native

of Kastoria whose Greek epitaph may still be seen to-day at the cemetery in Ke-

reposi Street at Pest.



Title-page of the Modern-Greek translation of Samuel Ratz's work: "Medical Teaching."

17. Horváth, E.: Ujgörögök 63-64.

18. Pásztor, M.: A 150 éves Lipotváros. Budapest 1940, 63.

19. Laios, G.: 'Ανέκδοτες ἐπιστολὲς καὶ ἐγγραφα τοῦ 1821. Athens 1958, 31.

20. Lioufis: 'Ιστορία, 292.

21. Lioufis: 'Ιστορία, 318.

22. Lioufis: 'Ιστορία, 335. De off. circa gravidas. Wien 1841.

23. Horváth, E.: MGB 46.

The novel "Hermillos" of Michael Perdikares, a physician at Kosani who graduated at Vienna, was published in 1817 in Pest.²⁴

The influence of Hungarian medical science upon the Greeks during the Ottoman rule is established beyond doubt by the translation in Modern Greek of the "Medical Exhortations" of Samuel Ratz, University Professor at Pest, which appeared in 1787,²⁵ the translation itself being the work of the Hungarian Greeks' spiritual leader, Georgios Zaviras.²⁶ In his Latin and Greek dedication of the work Zaviras states that the aim of his translation is to spread the theories of Professor Ratz throughout Greece. At the end of the Greek epigram in honour of the author Ratz is styled "the glory of Pannonia and the benefactor of Greece." Zaviras in his introduction states that he was led to undertake the translation first by the fact that the Greeks in those days had no up-to-date medical treatise which could be put into the hands of the masses and that medicine was under the control of unskilled laymen. Zaviras translates the prescriptions which form the second part of the medical treatise into Greek and Latin and at the end of the work gives explanations of the rarer Greek medical terms used in the text. The ideas are often wrapped-up in Hungarian and Turkish language, from which it may be inferred that Zaviras' translation was intended chiefly for the Greeks of the Diaspora. Konstantinos Zaviras, brother of Georgios, tried to enhance the book's value by adding a botanical appendix in four languages—Greek Ancient and Modern, Latin and Hungarian.

The Greek priest Polizoes Kontos wrote in praise of Hungarian medical science by publishing in 1797 at Vienna a poem eulogising Ferdinandus Stipsics, Professor of Medicine at Pest for having cured him of a deadly disease.²⁷

All these facts prove that the Hungarian Greeks had a dual role in medical science. On the one hand, they showed a sympathetic reaction to Hungarian and Western Medicine, especially to that of Halle and Vienna. On the other hand, they transmitted their medical knowledge to the Greeks of the Diaspora and to those of their compatriots who remained at home.

Budapest

ÖDÖN FÜVES

24. Enepekides, P. : Συμβολαί εις την μυστικὴν πνευματικὴν καὶ πολιτικὴν κίνησιν τῶν Ἑλλήνων τῆς Βιέννης πρὸ τῆς Ἐπαναστάσεως. Berlin 1960, 70-101.

25. Title of the Modern Greek translation of Samuel Rácz's work : Ἱατρικαὶ παραινέσεις.

26. Horváth, E. : Zavirasz György élete és munkái Budapest 1937.37-40.

27. Horváth, E. : MGB 64.