

ENGLISH SUMMARY

The Carolina Public Hospital from Kolozsvár/Cluj/Klausenburg

In the Middle Ages the poor and sick people were cared in almshouses. More than 30 almshouses functioned in the late Middle Ages and early Modern Age in Transylvanian towns. In Kolozsvár we have scattered data about three such almshouses: that of Saint Elisabeth, of Holy Spirit and that of Saint Job. The first one is considered to be the oldest, and this was the only almshouse in the town still functioning at the end of the 18th century. At this time there were enough surgeons and medical doctors to open hospitals or “nosocomiums” as they were called in those times. The hospitals differed from almshouses in the fact that they aimed not only to shelter and feed the needy people but also trying to cure their sickness. The first two hospitals were founded by the 1810/11 Transylvanian Diet: in Kolozsvár and in Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş/Neumarkt.

This study is the complete history of the Kolozsvár Public Hospital. It is divided into 5 chapters.

The first period is that of foundation and its functioning up to 1827. We are informed about the debates of the 1810/1811 Transylvanian Diet connected with the hospitals, the Founding Decision sent to Vienna and its final text which got the sanction. Following a long pause the 1817 visit of Emperor Franz and his wife, Carolina Augusta to Kolozsvár and their great donation contributed to the opening of the hospital in September 1818. We don't know the first location of the hospital, it could heal 4 women and 4 men. It was under the direction of the Transylvanian Government, its director was one of the secretaries of the Government. The town's official doctor and surgeon had to do the healing work. The first doctor was István Barra, he was followed from 1826 by József Szóts. Both graduated the Vienna University. In 1820 the emperor permitted to use as name of the hospital his wife's name: Nosocomium Carolinaeum. At the same time it was ordered to make possible for students of surgery to learn and practice in this hospital.

The second period starts in 1827 when the hospital is housed in an old convent's building in Old Castle Square. Here at the beginning there were about 16 beds. In 1836 from the existing 48 beds two sections were separated for teaching the students: 10 beds for internal diseases and 10 for surgical problems. In that period the yearly number of patients was about 300. In 1845 there were

more than 400 patients, and the building had not enough rooms. In all this period József Szóts remained the curing doctor. In the period of 1848 revolution the building housed the military hospital. This period ends with the defeat of the revolution.

The third period beginning with 1850 – under Austrian rule – brings some important changes. The healing doctor becomes the director of the hospital. In 1851 a Maternity ward is opened. In 1854 the Ophthalmological Institute is founded. In 1857 the public hospital becomes state hospital with constant endowments. József Szóts dies in 1858, József Csíkszeredai Szabó is appointed as new director, he is also graduate from Vienna. The greatest problem of the hospital in this period is the old and improper building. In 1863 they rent the neighboring two old houses from the Mikes family. Some sections are moved there. Now they had altogether 160 beds. Beginning with the 1867 Compromise, the unification of Transylvania to Hungary, this hospital was subordinated to the Ministry of Internal Affairs from Budapest.

The fourth period starts in 1872 when the Royal Hungarian University was opened in Kolozsvár, subordinated to the Ministry of Education. So the professors of the Medical Faculty could but teach and heal in the Carolina Hospital, in administration they were subordinated to the head of the hospital. This led to a lot of conflicts. The Medical Faculty asked in repeated cases the Ministry of Education to overtake the hospital and to build proper buildings. They even made the draft of a new hospital of 550 beds. The Ministry of Interiors considered it too expensive. In the 1890-ies there became a constant topic in public life and press the situation of the hospital. Only the poorest people would look for treatment in its wards. At the end of 1895 the two ministries signed an agreement according to which beginning with January 1896 the Ministry of Education will overtake the hospital. The director from May 1872 was József Bakonyi, he resigned in 1882 because of the conflicts. He was followed by Emil Szóts (†1887), both studied in Vienna. The supreme direction of the hospital beginning with 1882 belongs to a counsel headed by the Lord Lieutenant (prefect). It has 8 members, between them the director and the administrator of the hospital, 2 university professors. The last director of the hospital is Gábor Engel, private docent of the university. At this time the hospital has a public section and about 5 clinics, where the healing is directed by university professors. In 1897 there starts the building of the new clinics from Mikó (now Clinicilor) street. The first modern clinics were opened in 1899. Now each of the clinics got a separate building.

The fifth and last period starts in 1899. In the new buildings the Carolina Hospital merged into the University Clinics, form now on it remained but with administrative functions. It was responsible for the requirements of the hospital:

medicine, feeding, heating, bedding, cleaning, assistants and servants. Altogether more than 200 persons. The number of beds was about 800. During World War I the military section of the hospital had 1000 beds.

The history of Carolina Public Hospital gets to an end in 1919 when it is overtaken by the Romanian authorities.

The author uses all the documents referring to the Carolina Hospital from the National Archives from Kolozsvár and also some documents from the same Archives from Marosvásárhely. A rich Bibliography, the list of directors (with biography), sections, as well of clinics and their heads is given. The text of 17 documents completes the volume.

Appendix: The Elisabeth-Maria Red Cross Hospital from Kolozsvár. At the end of the 19th century when the surgical section from the Carolina Hospital had no proper conditions for intricate surgical interventions the famous professor of surgery, J. Brandt with the help of Red Cross organization founded the first sanatory for well-to-do patients in the town. They bought a site in the Magyar (now 21st December 1989) street where they erected three buildings with up-to-date surgery. The history of this hospital and the doctors working there are presented. In 1929 the Romanian state nationalized this hospital and transformed it into the first Oncological Institute from the country.