

13. SUMMARY

In this paper we emphasised two main evolutionary trends in the pharmaceutical field, which were influenced by the owners of pharmacies and their employees.

It was not only thanks to the influence of the "Praktický lékárník" (Practical Pharmacist) magazine that the equipment and external design of the pharmacy started to modernize. The magazine promoted rational (simple as well as functional and aesthetical) furnishings for pharmacies. A number of distinguished architects asserted themselves in this field, such as, Václav Kubík who was a designer of approximately forty pharmacies.

The quality of work in prescription and pharmaceutical production was supported by a special controlling system created by the Institute of Drug Control founded in 1918. The institute had to face a lot of personal troubles as well as difficulties finding the right working space. Also, the application of its results was not very flexible. However, it contributed greatly to the improvement of medical drug production. Experta, the first company setup for the scientific and rational evaluation of drugs, had been trying to help with the controlling system since 1934. Experta attempted to elevate the quality of home and factory produced medical remedies. They mainly focused on the application of biological control and they suggested regulation of medical remedies.

Difficulties regarding the salaries of the employed pharmacists arose in the social sphere. They believed that their salaries were too low and that there was insufficient social protection of elder colleagues. They presumed the so called salary fund would solve the problem. The owners of the pharmacies would contribute salary allowances. The amount would depend on the number of employees, size and location of each pharmacy. The salaries, which would consider the age, family conditions and the location of the pharmacy, were to be paid from the allowances. The implementation of the idea was not easy. The owners were trying to make it difficult by forcing various conditions upon which they would be willing to accept the idea of the salary fund. For instance, they tried to raise tariffs, institute new laws on pharmaceutical chambers, restrict the establishment of new pharmacies and the cancellation of § 156. The Moravian-Silesian boards of pharmacists were much more helpful as far as these matters were concerned. In 1930 they made an agreement with their employees and a minimum wage was introduced. The boards disapproved of the methods of their Prague colleagues and the organisations HGLP and SvČsL in both the social sphere and in other problems. The boards finally pressed their suggestions in 1937/38 and they took over the SvČsL and introduced a completely new professional policy.

The organisations of employees initiated a proposition to establish a service badge, which would clearly indicate a graduated pharmacist. They wanted to prevent owners from letting an unqualified employee to dispense drugs and thus increase prestige of drug stores. However, similarly to the idea of the salary fund it met with the resistance of the owners.

The main obstacle in the fulfilment of the aims of the pharmacy was a lack of solidarity and collegiality of pharmacists. Rare case of solidarity happened during the foundation of the Pharmacy House. In 1937 *The Committee for the Foundation of the Pharmacy House in Prague* was established. A fund which financed the purchase of a house in Prague (1942) suitable for the foundation of the Pharmacy House was established thanks to financial contributions of various pharmaceutical organisations and pharmacists. The Pharmacy House was an important place for the cultivation of solidarity and collegiality. Except for societal happenings, many different cultural and educational programmes took place.

Lack of unity was partly overcome when in 1934 they fought against the **§ 156, 112/1934 of the Code** allowing the doctors of health insurance companies to dispense medical products to their doctors. The many attempts to cancel the paragraph led only to a partial success. The dispensation of medical remedies was permitted only to the institutional pharmacy "Život v Praze" (Life in Prague).

The running battle concerning the rights to dispense medical remedies between pharmacies and general stores was not concluded either. Negotiations about several proposals for chemist law were not successful.

Another failure happened when the boards attempted to found pharmaceutical chambers with the idea to bring equal representation for pharmacists and employees, as well a disciplinary authority. The chambers would also function as an institution which would try to correct some of the poor procedures in the pharmaceutical branch. The chambers were supposed to have a more significant position during the negotiations on legislative reforms and implementation of professional requirements.

This paper mainly followed the problems which arose in the course of events in the pharmaceutical field. Therefore, the attention to other professional branches is left to other papers.