

ABSTRACT

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Title of Doctoral Thesis **Rationalization in the Czechoslovak pharmacy practice in the 20th century**

In the 20th century, the efforts to the development and application of rationalization and standardization approaches were observed in the Czechoslovak pharmacy. They were, among others, reflected in the founding of institutions which dealt with given issues. Between 1920s and 1930s, there was the group for pharmacy in the Commission for Rationalization and Standardization in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, and Pharmacy (FS RANOK) and from 1955 to 1992, there was the Pharmaceutical Development Centre (RLS). So far, however, there is no current work from the pharmacy history focusing on those institutions in detail. The aim of the doctoral thesis was to focus on the phenomenon of rationalization of Czechoslovak pharmacy in the previous century and its institutionalized form. In the case of FS RANOK, as the first institution of this kind, the aim was to understand the broader context of its establishment, the expected content of its activities, and the causes of its failure in the implementing of rationalization ideas. Out of large RLS agenda, the RLS activities were studied in the field of rationalization of the work place in a pharmacy as well as the furniture and equipment facilities.

The work was based on the study of archival references concerning both institutions as well as relevant literature search, especially from professional journals from the period under review.

The establishment of FS RANOK was realized due to the general tendency to apply rationalization in all specializations which were typical for interwar Czechoslovakia. The group of pharmacy committed to deal with the wide range of issues from the efficient organization of the work place in a pharmacy to the standardization of administrative tools. However, the only result was the proposals for the standardized filling for registration of goods. The role of FS RANOK was therefore mainly in the opening of the topic and the definition of rationalization and standardization in Czechoslovak pharmacy. The reasons of the relative failure of FS RANOK apparently consisted in the insufficient interest of the majority of pharmacists as well as the workload of committee members. Within the interwar period, there were other pharmacists, instead of FS RANOK members, individually addressed the rationalization and published their ideas in professional journals.

At the end of 1940s of 20th century, the increasing interests about pharmacy rationalization and efforts to establish an appropriate institution appeared. After the nationalization of pharmacies in the early 50s, there was a demand to set up a research pharmacy institute. This was partially met by establishing RLS. The working program was also broad. From 1960s, RLS intensively worked on rationalized layout of pharmacy work place, development of efficient sector furniture, and innovation of pharmacy technology. RLS cooperated especially with faculties of pharmacy. Their results were then applied in the practice in a way of mandatory standards used for building and reconstruction of pharmacies, for which professional counselling was also provided by RLS. Overall, this institution influenced significantly the Czechoslovak pharmacy formation in the second half of 20th century. RLS stopped working after returning of non-state pharmacy. Proposals for rationalization and standardization approaches defined by rationalization movement were further developed and applied in the practice in terms of the state socialist pharmacy in Czechoslovakia. In the last decade of the 20th century, the interest in rationalization issues in pharmacy was reduced.

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