

Abstract

1. Introduction

In this PhD thesis, I set out to map the fate of Jewish pharmacists who worked mainly in pharmacy (or owned it) during the interwar Czechoslovak Republic in the period 1939 to 1945. I paid attention to the Jews working in industry, science and education in pharmacy in this time period. This theme has not yet been processed (now available one study and partial articles on Jews in pharmacy, but this study is concerned with an older time period). My motivation was to repay a debt to my colleagues, who mostly perished in the Shoah.

In the Czech lands lived in 1931 1 175 511 Jews, in Bohemia 763 017 Jews, in Moravia and Silesia 412 500 Jews. In Bohemia lived more than 50 % of Jews in Prague, on the contrary in Moravia and Silesia only more than 25 % of Jews lived in Brno (more of them lived in the country and let downs).

Pharmaceutical higher education in Austria was officially launched in 1804, one year in medical school. In the winter semester of 1834/1835 was extended for two years. In 1864, the study finally moved to the faculty of philosophy, after 1919 (now only in Czechoslovakia), the Faculty of Science.

Before the division of the university in Prague in 1882, was the first pharmacy student Josef Jeiteles, who graduated in 1852. Doctoral degree in chemistry according to the then rules obtained by later. In the years 1834-1890 studied a total of four Jewish students, all in the German part of the University.

After splitting into the Czech and German parts, the majority of students concentrated in the German part. In 1919 was created purely Czech Charles University, from which separated the German university in Prague. After the Nazi occupation, Charles University was closed in 1939 (at that time, a few Jewish students were studying pharmacy there).

1. Methods

The important matter of my dissertation is how to make identification Jewish pharmacists, it means their Jewish nationality or religion (or both). As the important and valuable source seems catalogs of listeners and rigorous protocols from Charles-Ferdinand University since 1882 to 1918 (the University was divided from 1882 to 1918 year in German and Czech part) and from the Czech Charles University and German University in Prague since 1919 to 1939 (in both university studies of pharmacy existed on Science Faculty). Every student of pharmacy had in his (her) introduce his (her) religion and from 1920 year nationality.

Students with Jewish religion or (and) nationality, who had a place of residence in the Czechoslovakia will be important for my work. Those students must have completed study, too.

In 1937 1305 pharmacies existed throughout Czechoslovakia. Most of them (998) were in the Czech lands (i. e. Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia), 231 pharmacies were recorded in the Slovakia and 42 in Carpatho-Ruthenia.

According to statistics from 1930 in the Czech lands pharmacy were owned 639 Czechs and 359 Germans (including Jewish, statistics unfortunately distinction) by nationality. In the rest of the Czechoslovakia Jewish the Jews owned 151 pharmacies (in the Slovakia and 24 in the Carpathian Ruthenia according to this statistic).

I compared this list with the list of active pharmacists in Czechoslovakia in 1937 year. The names of active pharmacist are available Pharmacy Yearbook for 1938 year and in the Health Statistics Yearbook of Czechoslovakia 1938. Supplement the information would be used and Pharmaceutical Yearbook of 20 and 30 years 20. century available on the Department of Social and Clinical Pharmacy of Faculty of Pharmacy, Charles University in Hradec Králové and Czech Pharmaceutical Museum Kuks. At work I must take into account the fact, that the older pharmacist could study pharmacy in Austria-Hungary in another universty too (Vienna, Lemberg, Czenowitz, Budapest) until 1918 year.

The resulting list I compared with Czech Internet databases collecting data on Shoah victims and also in consultation with the multimedia center of the Jewish Museum in Prague as well as a search in the central database Memorial Yad Vashem.

I got aim as much information about individual victims and their destinies. An integral part of my thesis was „aryanization“ pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies. (sources: National Archive in Prague (NA Prague), State Regional Archives in Prague (SRA Prague), Faculty of Pharmacy, Comenius University, Bratislava).

This would constitute a fundamental part of my project. These chapters have been supplemented by an introduction that describes the importance of Jews in the history of European pharmacy and the position of Jews in pharmacy in the Czech lands from the 17th century until 1918. In three chapters I paid attention on to pharmaceutical companies that owned Jewish owners or co-owners (Norgine, Interpharma, Robert Heisler). In the final part I described the fate of Jews pharmacists World War II.

2. Results

A total of 437 students meet this criterion. I compared the resulting names with names reported in Pharmacy Yearbook, 1936 and in Health Yearbook of the Czechoslovak 1938 (and other souces). So I identified how many of them worked in pharmacies in Czechoslovakia.

I got so total of 626 names, Jewish pharmacists from Czechoslovakia. Of these, 317 of them identified work in a pharmacy. Pharmacy owners were a total of 143 persons, 150 of them worked as employed pharmacists.

Most of them felt Hungary (157) and Jewish (126) by nationality. Most Jewish pharmacists working in Slovakia (200) and Bohemia (63). Most of employed pharmacists were most Hungary (43) and Jewish (42) by nationality. Most of them worked in Slovakia (72) and Bohemia (40). Some of Jewish pharmacists worked in pharmacies of their fathers or relatives, particularly in the east of the Republic.

Jewish owners of pharmacies were mostly in the Slovakia (106), Bohemia (14) and Carpatho-Ruthenia (11). Most of them were Jewish (28) and Hungarian (18) by nationality (unfortunately for older owners missing data on nationality).

Largely finished in the Terezin ghetto (where it served as a hospital pharmacy), some died right in the ghetto, some were then murdered in the extermination camps (Dachau, Auschwitz and others).

So far I found 74 names of Jewish pharmacists from the Czech lands (and other countries) were transported to Theresienstadt ghetto. Most of them were murdered in Auschwitz (37), Treblinka (5) and 5 of them died in the ghetto of Lodz. 24 pharmacists survived to liberation of the Terezin ghetto Red Army May 8, 1945.

Pharmacies of Jewish owners were „aryanized“ (in the Czech lands for instance pharmacy “Na Perštýně” owned by PhMr. Paul Munk in Prague or pharmacy “ U dobrého pastýře” owned by PhMr. David Bermann in Brno).

I identified 363 Jewish pharmacists from Slovakia. 71 of them survived, 56 were murdered, 1 died as a soldier in foreign troops, 1 died before 1939, and 238 were fate (for now) unknown. Of the 56 murdered, 6 were murdered in 1944 during the massacre of Jews near Pusztavam.

The group of Jewish pharmacists from Subcarpathian Russia was 87 people: 5 of them survived, 9 were murdered, 1 died before 1939, and 72 of them were fated (for now) unknown. Of the 9 murdered, one was murdered in 1944 during a massacre of Jews near Pusztavam. There was no possibility of identification because sources or relevant literature were inaccessible.

After World War II, some pharmacies were returned to their original Jewish owners. In the historic countries (Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia), only one of the "aryanized" three pharmacies was returned. In Slovakia, 42 pharmacies were returned directly to the original owner, 22 to his heirs, 24 of them were not alive anymore (the pharmacy was under national administration or had a new owner), and 7 of them were destroyed and has not been restored after the war.

The territory of Carpatho-Ruthenia was handed over to the Soviet Union in 1946 and all pharmacies in its territory were nationalized.

3. Discussion

In the Slovak and Carpathian Ruthenia Jews were at that time a higher percentage among pharmacists, but the majority of them claimed to be Hungarian nationality. Most Jewish pharmacists worked as pharmacy employees. But among the Jewish pharmacists were owners of pharmacy, too.

The Munich Agreement, the Second Republic and the beginning of World War II meant a tragedy for Jewish pharmacists. Only a few individuals of them emigrated in time.

Only a few individuals of them returned to post-war Czechoslovakia, but in the Czech lands none of them got their pharmacy back (with one exception, PhMr Munk's heirs were returned to his pharmacy in Prague). As an example, I can mention the fate of PhMr. Ernst Wollisch. The pharmacist owned before the war pharmacy “U české koruny” in Carlsbad. PhMr. Wollisch still emigrated to the USA before the Second World War. He returned in 1945, but his pharmacy Czechoslovak authorities him didn't return. His colleague from Carlsbad, PhMr. Richard Teichmann, he sells his pharmacy, „Orion“ still in 1936. He emigrated, too. PhMr. Teichmann built manufactory of cosmetic and pharmaceutical products „Carlotherm“ in Carlsbad after the war. This manufactory was nationalized and renamed the factory “Vřídlo.

Small group of them was created by pharmacists who worked in the occupied Sudetenland. Their fates have not been explored yet. In any case, after the occupation of the Sudetenland, they had to leave their pharmacies (for instance PhMr. Sternklar, owner of the “U orla ” in Liberec). The owner of the pharmacy “U české koruny” in Carlsbad, PhMr. Ernst Wollisch, he had to leave his pharmacy and emigrated to the United States. The previous owner of the pharmacy, PhMr. Wilhelm Wollisch (father of Ernst) did not manage to emigrate and was killed in a concentration camp. PhMr. Eugene Schweinburg, the owner of the pharmacy “U útěchy Panny Marie ” in the former Německý Benešov (today Benešov nad Černou) despite the protests of German residents (!), was transferred to the territory of the Czech-Slovakia. During the war he was transported to Theresienstadt and from there to the extermination camp in Sobibor.

Another second little group consisted of pharmacists who arrived from abroad. I found 11 names - 3 women (Yugoslavia, Romania, Hungary) and 8 men (5 from Poland, 2 from Romania and 1 from Hungary). All graduated in Czechoslovakia).

The last little group was constituted owners of pharmacies, who came from Slovakia and the Carpathian Ruthenia. Their fate after establishment of the Protectorate of Bohemia and

Moravia has not been quite clear up far now. We can assume that they had to leave to the territory of the Slovak state or to the Hungarian Kingdom (PhMr. Andreas Kende from Slovakia, the owner of the pharmacy “U Marie Pomocné” in Suchdol at Lužnice or PhMr. Karel Schwarz from Slovakia, the owner pharmacy “U anděla strážce” in Doubrava in Silesia).

Some of them fought in the 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps in U.S.S.R on the Eastern Front alongside the Soviet Red Army in World War II. Staff Captain PhMr. Ernest Friedmann served as chief of pharmacy services of this corps. He fought at Sokolov (commander of squad of anti-tank weapons), Belaya Tserkov, Kiev and other places. PhMr. Helena Petránková was head of brigade pharmacy and particularly distinguished themselves in difficult conditions during the Battle of Dukla Pass.

From the of pharmaceutical factories with Jewish owners was necessary, remind Norgine factory in Usti nad Labem (owner Dr. Victor Stein) and factory Heisler (owner Richard Heisler) in Chrast near Chrudim. The obtained was complemented the names of Jewish pharmacists from transports to Terezín and other historical sources.

The fates of the Jewish pharmacists, who lived in Slovakia and Hungarian Kingdom (occupied Carpathian Ruthenia and south of Slovakia) were somewhat different, but their fate was no less tragic.

Key words: Jews, pharmacy, aryanization, pharmacist, shoah, owner, employed pharmacist, transport, pharmaceutical factory, Shoah

