

ITEM No. 6390/56

MV
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POLAND

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POLISH MEDICAL PROFESSION SEEN THROUGH THE
EYES OF A GREEK DOCTOR.

SOURCE ATHENS: A 61-year-old Greek repatriate doctor.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Up to May 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: This is a sequence to RFE Item No. 6223/56.

G.Z.P.P. stands for "Głuszyckie Zakłady Przemysłu
Bawełnianego."

W.Z.W.S. for "Wrocławskie Zakłady Włókien Sztucz-
nych."

Dr. /fnu/ EICHNER has been reported previously and
that from different source as the director of the Wojewódzki
Urząd Zdrowia at WROCLAW /RFE Item 1230/55./

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From September 1950 until May 1956 source worked
as a doctor first in GLUSZYCA and then in WROCLAW. To get
appointment as a doctor he had to submit a copy of his
diploma from the ATHENS Medical School, which his family
sent him from ATHENS, together with a translation into
Polish certified by the Greek Communist organization in
WROCLAW.

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In GLUSZYCA source was appointed as doctor of the "G.Z.P.P." textile factory by the town's health center "Wydział Zdrowia". He worked there from September 1950 until June 1953. Then he asked to be transferred to WROCLAW, because the mountainous climate of GLUSZYCA did not agree with his health, for he suffered from myocarditis. The transfer was effected by the WROCLAW district's health center after he was examined by a so-called "climatologic committee" composed of two doctors and a secretary. A "climatologic committee" exists in the capital of every district and if a citizen wishes to be transferred from one place to another for reasons of health, he must be examined by such a committee.

In WROCLAW source was appointed by the city's "Wydział Zdrowia" as doctor first to the "W.Z.W.S." artificial silk spinning factory and then to the "Pa-Fa-Wag" state railroad car factory which, employing about 9,000 workers, had polyclinic with a staff of 21 doctors - six pathologists, two surgeons, one gynecologist, one ophthalmologist, one dermatologist, one neurologist, four dentists, one tuberculosis specialist and four assistant doctors /felczer/. There was also a laboratory with a chemist-analyst. The doctors were aided by about 30 nurses. The factory's polyclinic had modern equipment for X-rays, physiotherapy and cardiographs. It also had a dispensary with most of the essential drugs. Antibiotics, however, were scarce. There was a shortage of penicillin and no streptomycin. Streptomycin was very scarce even in the city's drugstores where it cost, when it was to be found, 80 zloty per gram. The factory polyclinic's director was a young surgeon, about 30 years old named Andrew MANOWSKI.

It was source's impression that most workers were in a rather poor physical state; they were mostly run down and suffered from vitamin deficiencies.

During his six years in Poland source does not remember any epidemics, except influenza in wintertime. The most frequent diseases apart from influenza were heart-diseases, tuberculosis, cancer and rheumatic fever. There were also a great many accidents to be treated. As source heard from the other doctors, the incidence of tuberculosis had increased since the war.

In general, source formed the impression that the standard of health of the Polish people was lower than in the Western countries. All the hospitals of WROCLAW were full, and a patient would have to wait 10 to 15 days before being admitted to a hospital.

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In WROCLAW there were no new hospitals; the city's hospitals were the old German ones.

The supreme authority in matters of health in every district is the "Wydział Zdrowia Wojewodzki." In WROCLAW it has its offices at 23, Ulica Dobrzynska. The director was a Dr. EICHNER /fnu/.

Under the "Wydział Zdrowia Wojewodzki," came the city of WROCLAW "Wydział Zdrowia" which also had a director, whose name source does not remember, and many sections. There was the factory section, the children's stations' section, the infants' stations' section, the invalids' section, the maternity section and others of which source remembers only the Przychodnia section. The przychodnia were the health centers of the sectors into which the city was divided. Source believes that there were seven przychodnia in WROCLAW, each bearing a number from one to seven. Each przychodnia had a director and doctors of various specialties, who for two hours a day paid home visits to seriously ill patients.

The doctors were classified into six groups /grupa/. A graduate of a medical school would be classified in Group One and would be promoted to the next group after five or six years of practice. After about 25 years of practice a doctor would be classified in the fifth group and could be promoted to the sixth only by the Ministry of Health upon the recommendation of the director of the respective Wydział Zdrowia Wojewodzki.

The doctors were paid according to the group to which they belonged and according to the hours they worked. Source who belonged to the fifth group and worked six hours per day at the "Pa-Fa-Wag" polyclinic received a net salary of 1,350 zloty per month. In GLUSZYCA where he worked up to 12 hours per day at the "G.Z.P.P." textile factory and at a children's station he earned, including some private visits, up to 3,000 zloty per month.

The drugs prescribed by the doctors for workers or employees were paid by them with a 70 per cent discount; if on the prescription the doctor wrote the words "chronic disease," the worker or employee paid only 10 per cent of the drug's cost. Pensioners and hospitalized invalids got the drugs free.

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