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POLAND

HEALTH AND MEDICINE (1602)

Stray Dogs Used For TB Treatment At KAMIENNA GORA State
Sanatorium.

SOURCE FRANKFURT : 38-year-old moderately intelligent German woman born in CHELMSKO SLASKIE where she lived until her legal repatriation to Eastern Germany in May 1953. She came to Western Germany in October 1953.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : May 1953.

EVALUATION COMMENT : This is an interesting feature, but such a popular belief may be as well pure invention based on gossip and old time medical prejudices.

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When-ever the villagers of nearby CHELMSKO SLASKIE saw a van coming from the TB sanatorium at KAMIENNA GORA they commented, "Here comes the dog catcher again. Some TB patient is going to be treated with dog fat."

It was generally believed in CHELMSKO SLASKIE and neighbourhood that stray dogs were used at this sanatorium in the treatment of TB. Source stated that former patients from the sanatorium saw stray dogs being especially fattened in a department of the sanatorium. When suitably well fed the dogs were slaughtered and their fat allegedly used in TB treatment in a manner which source could not explain although she believed it to be in the form of ointment.

The van from the state TB sanatorium paid frequent visits to CHELMSKO SLASKIE as the village had a large number of stray dogs. The dogcatcher was equipped with a long pole with a wire noose on the end which he slipped round the necks of these alleged victims of science.

(A West German doctor questioned on the use of the dog fat in the treatment of TB that although it is not used in West German hospitals it is known as an old-fashioned folk remedy)