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POLAND

Description of the Country (3802)

Hospitals (1602)
Physicians (1605)

HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CARE IN SZCZECIN

SOURCE ATHENS: A 37-year-old Greek repatriate doctor.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until September 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: This is a factual description of SZCZECIN hospitals. We had in our files the "Panstwowy Szpital Kliniczny" and the Military Hospital. Of the names of doctors mentioned in the report, we have in our files those of Prof. GORNICKI Boleslaw and Prof. STARKIEWICZ Witold. Data given on doctors' earnings is correct.

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Source who was a doctor in the Greek Army was taken prisoner by the guerrillas in 1949 and was sent one year later to Poland. After staying for one year in a Greek children's station in ZGORZELEC, he was transferred to a Greek children's station in SZCZECIN, and in May 1954 he was employed in the central biochemical laboratory of the SZCZECIN State Hospital No.1 (Panstwowy Szpital Kliniczny-No.1), where he worked until his repatriation in September 1956.

According to source, SZCZECIN with an estimated population of about 300,000 inhabitants has the following five hospitals, all built by the Germans:

The "Panstwowy Szpital Kliniczny No.1" and the "Panstwowy Szpital Kliniczny No.2." These two hospitals are under the control of the Medical Academy of SZCZECIN, and the two together have about 1,000 beds. The third hospital is the "Wojewodski Szpital Specjalistyczny" with about 500 to 600 beds. The fourth hospital is the "Szpital Miejski" with about 250 to 300 beds, and the fifth hospital is the "Military Hospital," a large building, which source never visited.

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The "Panstwowy Szpital Kliniczny No.1" has the following clinics: Pathological, surgery, pediatric, neurological, ophthalmological, laryngological, X-rays. It also has a psychiatric, a tuberculosis and a second pathological clinic which are located in the "Wojewodski Szpital" and a maternity clinic located in the "Military Hospital." The directors of all these clinics are professors of the SZCZECIN Medical Academy. Source remembers the names of Prof. Edward GORZKOWSKI, about 50, director of the pathological clinic; Prof. (fnu) GORNICKI, about 55-60, director of the pediatric clinic; Prof. (fnu) JAREMA, the dean of the Medical Academy and a Party member, about 50 to 55, director of the neurological clinic; (fnu) STARKIEWICZ, a Party member about 50-55, director of the ophthalmological clinic. The hospital's director was Dr. (fnu) DOROZYNSKI, over 55, who was not a professor of the Medical Academy.

Each clinic had a small laboratory where analyses of urine and blood were made. Every other analysis was made by the central laboratory in which source worked. The central laboratory's personnel consisted of three doctors, one woman bacteriologist, a chemist and 12 assistants. Some research work was also done by the central laboratory. For instance, source was experimenting with the effect of largactyl, an ataraxic drug, on the sugar of the blood stream. Experiments were also made with insulin. The experiments were made on rabbits.

There was also a pathological-anatomical laboratory, whose director was a Dr. (fnu) STOJALOWSKI, and a dispensary which was not well provided with drugs, with the exception of penicillin which was abundant. Specialties, however, were lacking, and many patients had to order the required specialties from abroad. Source said that the local production of drugs was insufficient and that streptomycin of good quality was imported from Russia.

The hospital's staff in doctors was insufficient. There was one assistant doctor for about every ten beds, at least in the pathological and pediatric clinics, but there were insufficient nurses.

The hospital's building was a modern one, built by the Germans not long before World War II. The hospital was tolerably clean but not exceptionally so.

The hospital had a restaurant where the doctors could have their meals for 3.60 zloty. Meat was served regularly, and on the whole the food was satisfactory. Source said that he was told the same food was given to the patients.

The working people, workers or employees, were treated free. Their bills were paid by the social insurance organization.

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The privately working and non-insured paid 30 zloty per day.

Speaking generally, source said that one may admit that medical care in general is satisfactory enough. However, there is a lack of doctors. For this reason, every graduate of a Medical Academy or other medical school is given a job immediately upon graduation in some clinic. The graduate is then paid 930 zloty for five hours' work in the clinic for his specialization. He may work another three hours in a medical station, but not more, for he must have time for further studies in his branch.

Referring to doctors, source said that they are divided into six groups according to the time evolved since their graduation, and they are paid accordingly. The first group comprises the doctors who have graduated within one year, in the second group are the doctors who have completed one year of service, in the third those who have completed three years, in the fourth those who have completed five years, in the fifth those who have completed ten years, and in the sixth those who have completed 15 years, as approved by the Ministry of Health. The basic salary of the doctors of the fifth group, to which source belonged, was 1,450 zloty. The salary of the sixth group was 1,650. But to these salaries should be added various allowances granted according to the post held or the medical specialization. The doctors of clinics or of hospitals received a so-called director's allowance. Source was granted an "infectious diseases" allowance of 30 per cent on his basic salary; he thus earned a net salary of 1,700 zloty per month. A specialization allowance was also granted. After two years' specialization the doctor received a first degree specialization allowance of ten per cent of his basic salary. After five years he was granted a second degree specialization allowance amounting to 20 per cent of his basic salary. Only the microbiologists were granted a second degree specialization allowance after only two years, because there was a lack of microbiologists.

In the city of SZCZECIN there are about seven or eight medical stations, to which the patients that can go for examination. But as these medical stations are always crowded, many patients go to an established "doctors' co-operative" where they pay 25 to 30 zloty the visit. The doctors receive patients also at their homes after their work either at a hospital or a medical station. They are then paid 50 to 60 zloty the visit. If a doctor is privately summoned to a patient's house, then he is paid 100 zloty.

During his stay in Poland source never heard of an epidemic. His only observation on the population's standard of
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health was that tuberculosis is significantly propagated owing to malnutrition. He said that the standard of living was higher when he first arrived in Poland in 1950 than it is today.

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