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The founder of Russian obstetric education P.Z. Condoidi

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Abstract

The article presents biographical information about Pavel Zakharovich Condoidi (Panajota Condoidi) (1710 - 1760), a great Russian medical doctor of Greek origin, a court physician under the empress Elizaveta Pavlovna, the founder of the first "midwife schools" - the founder of obstetric education in Russia.

Keywords: P.Z. Condoidi, Panajota Condoidi, midwife schools, obstetrics.

Pavel Zakharovich Condoidi was born in 1710, June 24 (old style) on the island of Corfu, when it was under the rule of the Venetian Republic, now it's Greece. His uncle was Anastasius Paussius-Condoidi, bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church in Vologda. Anastasius moved to Russia during the reign of Peter I, bringing his nephew as well. Thanks to his uncle, Pavel Zakharovich received an excellent primary education - he knew Greek, Latin, Russian, Italian, French, German, English and Dutch [1,2].

P.Z. Condoidi received his higher education abroad - at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. There he received his MD in 1733 for his work on the Cheselden cystotomy, and returned to Russia in 1735 [7].

In the same year, Pavel Zakharovich was interviewed at the Medical Chancellery, as a result he was recruited into the Ukrainian corps of the Russian army, which was taking part in the war for the Polish succession under the command of field marshal Peter von Lacy, and later - field marshal B.C. von Münnich. Also in the army of von Münnich P.Z. Condoidi took part in the Russian-Turkish war of 1735-1739, in the Battle of Stavuchany (1739) (major battle for the control of the Khotin fortress, now on the territory of the Chernivtsi Oblast, Ukraine) [1,2,5].

Pavel Zakharovich Condoidi (1710-1760) The only known portrait

During this period in 1738 P.Z. Condoidi received the title of General Staff Doctor of the Army of von Münnich. In this position, he began to show himself as a competent manager - he drew up instructions for field doctors with their duties and rights, established the posts of hospital inspectors and scientific meetings of army doctors, which significantly improved the organization of military medicine of that time [5].

Further, it is worth mentioning the figure of Jean Armand de L'Estocq, a physician of German-French origin. As a result of the coup and accession to the throne of Elizabeth of Russia in 1741, J.A. de L'Estocq, with the rank of Privy Councilor, was appointed archiater (supreme physician) and first court physician of the Russian Empire, director of the entire Medical Chancellery. However, the first court doctor immediately confessed that he "knew nothing about administration," and took Pavel Zakharovich, who was experienced in this, as his assistant [5].

A year later P.Z. Condoidi was entrusted with managing the St. Petersburg Medical Office due to the departure of J.A. de L'Estocq with the yard to Moscow. In this position, Pavel Zakharovich ordered to make a list of all doctors with an indication of their position; founded four field pharmacies with staff; set the exact terms of study in medical schools. P.Z. Condoidi also cared about the standardization of exams in medical schools. He developed instructions defining the time and order of the examinations, how to take them: "... If the answer of someone would be wrong, the one can be directed *kindly*, *demonstratively* and as *simple* as possible" [6].

In this position, P.Z. Condoidi appointed a professor to both Petersburg schools (I. Schreiber), gave him instructions, in which he emphasized the importance of comprehensive education of students so that they were versed in surgery, military medicine, knew anatomy and pharmacology well, emphasized the importance of practice - he obliged to show operational technique on corpses (for which he obliged to supply schools with corpses from hospitals), to make phantoms for desmurgy [3,6].

At the same time, Pavel Zakharovich introduced for the first time in Russian medicine the concept of "medical history", demanded to teach students to keep these documents, what should they write there, and also for the first time obligated to record autopsy data in order to use it later for learning from the mistakes [6].

The first archiater Jean Armand de L'Estocq, being the favorite of Elizabeth of Russia, went too deep into the court intrigues, and when he was caught, he was imprisoned in the Peter and Paul Fortress. His successor as director of the Medical Chancellery was Hermann Kaau Burghav (Boerhave), the nephew of the famous Hermann Boerhave. But he was too keen on serving at court as well, as a result of which the overall picture of the state's health care looked deplorable. However, G.K. Burhav was in his positio for a short time (1748-1751), and after his sudden death, P.Z. Condoidi was appointed instead. [5].

Due to the lack of control and total corruption, among the students of hospital schools prevailed "drunkenness and debauchery", which was tried to supress with corporal punishment. Pavel Zakharovich was distinguished by his special care and humanity: he abolished all corporal punishment, took care of the good salary of students, and eradicated corruption [5].

P.Z. Condoidi was seriously concerned about the relevance of education: he believed that "for an educated physician, books alone are not enough, no matter how perfect they are <...> it is impossible to follow the movement of science by books alone," and therefore he looked for ways to provide students with expensive, but relevant scientific journals. A solution was found: by 1754, the opening of the first public medical library in Russia was agreed with the Senate. The library was opened in 1756 at the Medical Chancellery, and it was supplied with books (including those purchased from private libraries of deceased doctors) and foreign journals by state money. Pavel Zakharovich himself donated many books from his own collection to this library [3].

No less important was the fact that P.Z. Condoidi organized Russian teaching materials in Russian: anatomical atlas, translations into Russian of the textbook of Geister's anatomy and Platner's surgery [3,5].

As mentioned above, P.Z. Condoidi paid great attention to the dissection of corpses - both for the purpose of teaching students and for the first time in Russian health care for autopsies. For

students, "cadavers" were to be delivered from hospitals, and it was regulated that the corpse must be intact and suitable for dissection, the deceased must not be a nobleman or have relatives who would like to bury him. The teachers were told to show the corpses to the students, not to justify themselves by the lack of bodies (the professors of the Leipzig University, with whom Pavel Zakharovich studied, spent the entire course of anatomy with four corpses). For students, such material was used for the purpose of teaching anatomy, surgery, and pathology. If during the autopsy there was something "unnatural and strange", then the artist was called to sketch the find, and together with the medical description, the find was printed by Chancellery.[3,6].

The huge contribution of P.Z. Condoidi brought him to midwifery. Pavel Zakharovich was the author of the Decree of Her Imperial Majesty Elizabeth of Russia "On the founding of the midwifery in favor of society", which was confirmed by the Governing Senate on April 29, 1754. The date of coming this Decree into effect marked the beginning of the organization of the obstetric care service in Russia, the possibility of introducing state supervision over it [4]. Based on this document, in 1757 the first "midwife schools" were founded in Moscow and St. Petersburg under the leadership of I.F. Erasmus and A. Lindemann. In each school there was "a professor of midwifery and his assistant, a doctor or obstetrician."

The classes themselves were held at the professor's home, and among the listeners were both students and already practicing midwives.

The project consisted of 29 articles, which mentioned the moments of preparation of the oath-bound midwives, the rules of their assistance to pregnant women and women in labour, also prescribed the wages that they may require for their work, the main ethical and deontological aspects of work [4].

The first article called on all the practising midwives of Moscow and St. Petersburg at the given time to come to the Medical Chancellery for their preparation and certification: «All the Russian and foreign midwives present in Moscow and St. Petersburg, who are not certified in their art, must now be examined by a skilled doctor and certified by a oath-bound midwives in the Medical Chancellery, and the ones, according to their certificates, are worthy, should be given commands by Medical Chancellery to fulfill their post, and they should be published to the police for the public awareness of such, and in this position they must take the oath according to the form attached with this document and they must be called oath-bound midwives; that all those midwives in the Medical Chancellery must show up from the publication of that decree after six months ...»[4].

An important point of the Decree is the standardization of payments for assistance, for example, the wife of the Field Marshal General had to pay 25 rubles for the "easy labours", and 35 rubles for the "difficult" ones. For "putting an enema", regardless of the rank of a woman's husband - 25 kopecks, for "putting leeches" - 1 ruble. Pavel Zakharovich also repeatedly mentioned that the poor and the needy women are supposed to be helped without payment [4].

Also P.Z. Condoidi drew up the oath for the midwives, and outlined the basic instructions for their future work. Some of the instructions deserve a separate reading in view of their great interest, therefore, some points from the Decree are selectively given (the original numbering has not been preserved).

1. "To rich and poor women in childbirth, of whatever rank and dignity you may be, you should go when you are in demand, day or night, without any delay, and help to them, and no woman should be missed deliberately..."
2. "You shouldn't to persuade or compel to torment in vain, but patiently wait, moreover, swear words, oaths, drunkenness, obscene jokes, discourteous speeches and other things, completely avoid."
3. "When you are called to be with a woman in labour, who, due to circumstances, is really in agony and will soon give birth, even though she would be poor, it is not permissible to leave her in this state and go to another, even if she is noble, until either really gave birth, or another oath-bound midwife will arrive to such a woman in labour. "

4. "To give expulsive drugs to women in childbirth, also in case of any illnesses after birth, or in other cases, women or babies in illnesses with internal medicines are precisely and completely forbidden to you under a fine, since the treatment of illnesses does not concern your business and position."
5. "If some strange and extraordinary anomaly happens, then inform about it to the Medical Chancellery immediately"
6. "You should visit and look for nurses for your women in labour, who will demand those nurses from you ..."
7. "You should serve in labour and accept babies, with poor and indigent women without pay, for the sake of Christian love and for increasing and strengthening your practice, and with such women you should act with equal zeal and diligence, as if with a noble person, "... in order to help a suffering person and save a person who goes in this world ..."
8. "When a school is established to listen to lectures, you must go to a certain doctor at the appointed hours and do not miss lectures without the serious reason under the fear of a fine for each absence ..."
9. "A married midwife who has daughters, should bring up at least one of her daughter in that profession, so that daughter could be a midwife and take her mother's place."
10. "After each month, you must invariably report to the Medical Chancellery or the Office in writing and without concealment the names and estate of the women in labour, whom you helped that month and who was freed, or died ..."
11. "Let their time of education will last for six years ... You should always have your pupils during the labour, first for the assistance, when pupils explored much science and saw enough cases, not before the fourth year of their education, they can combine education and practice in labours under supervision of oath-bound..."

An early death at the age of 50 did not allow to complete all the reforms planned by Pavel Zakharovich.

After the death of P.Z. Condoidi the leadership of the chancellery, schools, and then the college passed to the Germans hands. Pupils of German universities, who were adherents to scholasticism, gradually began to move away from the advanced teaching methods laid down by P.Z. Condoidi. The schools fell into decay soon after the death of Pavel Zakharovich [5].

But already from the second half of the 18th century, the students of P.Z. Condoidi, outstanding progressive Russian doctors, one of them was Konstantin Ivanovich Shchepin. Their works did not allow the reforms of Pavel Zakharovich to be forgotten. For example, K.I. Shchepin developed new more extensive educational programs, which were a continuation of the ideas of P.Z. Condoidi [5].

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