

STUDII DE ISTORIA FARMACIEI (STUDIES OF THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY)

László Tuka

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The book **"Studii de istoria farmaciei"** ("Studies of the history of pharmacy") is a selection of the main studies of the history of pharmacy written by the author over the past 20 years. A pharmacist by profession, with a PhD in pharmacy, Dr. Tuka László has performed researches in various fields of pharmaceutical sciences, but the history of pharmacy has been the author's constant passion.

The volume includes 12 studies. The most valuable study of the volume is, in our opinion, the research on pharmaceutical education (in Hungarian) at the "Franz Joseph" University of Cluj-Napoca, in the periods 1872-1919 and 1940-1945. This subject has been addressed by other researchers, but the knowledge of the Hungarian language has allowed the author access to primary information sources. Dr. Tuka László manages to systematize the collected data, providing a comprehensive and clear presentation of higher pharmaceutical education in Cluj-Napoca. The structure of education, the disciplines taught at that time, the teaching staff, the published courses, the rectors, deans, and even the buildings where pharmaceutical education took place are described. The data presented by the author are valuable and fill the gap existing in this area.

Another important subject, which is dealt with in six studies, is related to medical and pharmaceutical aspects in Reunited Romania, in 1936. The author presents the pharmacies and drug stores of the city of Cluj-Napoca, then those of Cluj, Sălaj and Bistrița-Năsăud counties.

The author also studies the territorial and inhabitant distribution of pharmacies and drug stores throughout the country, as well as their distribution depending on factors such as economic development, the education level of the population, the proportion of nationalities, etc. The pharmaceutical publications existing in 1936, the management organizations of pharmacists, the state organizations responsible for managing the pharmaceutical sector, the social and health care institutions in Romania, and the most common chronic diseases of the time are presented.

The history of the oldest pharmacy in Cluj-Napoca is another topic of great interest. The author uses as a starting point Pataki Jenő's work, and complements it with documents provided by authors such as Gaal György and Péter H. Mária, which he processes in his attractive and interesting characteristic style.

In two other studies, the author presents the public pharmacies of the city of Cluj-Napoca between 1899-1949, i.e. between the end of the 19th century and the year of the nationalization of pharmacies, as well as the memories of pharmacists in the Tuka family (those of the author, his wife, and his aunt Viola Vaida).

Two studies fall somewhat outside the topic area of the volume. One refers to a discussion regarding the anniversary of the introduction of 5-year higher pharmaceutical education in Romania, the other includes three reviews of pharmacy books. In one of the reviews, the author takes pride in having "corrected" the course of "Pharmaceutical technique" published in 1969 under the coordination of the distinguished Professor Dr. Victor Ciocănelea. For the sake of historical truth, we must contradict the author. Correction is the process by which the discovered errors are eliminated. Dr. Tuka László did not correct, but only reported the presence of errors in that course. These were not eliminated, because the next edition of the course was published by different authors. Another fact that is criticizable and difficult to explain is the author's disregard towards the teaching staff members that wrote the volumes reviewed by him, although the author is the "product" of their work, and the valuable results obtained by him in his professional and scientific activity are due to the high quality training that he received in university.

Apart from these downsides, the final conclusion of this review is that Dr. Tuka László's volume is original, interesting, written with talent in an attractive way, and worth reading.

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