

## WARSAW DOCTORS – CREATORS OF THE POLISH OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY

KIERZEK Andrzej

*Karkonoska Państwowa Szkoła Wyższa, Zakład Fizjoterapii, ul. Lwówecka 18, 58-503 Jelenia Góra 5, Sekcja Historyczna Polskiego Towarzystwa Otorhinolaryngologów – Chirurgów Głowy i Szyi*

### Abstract

*The achievements of 19th-century Warsaw physicians and the first decades of the twentieth century who created the Polish otorhinolaryngology are presented briefly. The most famous of them are Teodor Heryng, Alfred Sokolowski and the surgeons Franciszek Jawdyński and Julian Kosiński. Other well-known doctors in Warsaw, whose merit were significant, are also analyzed.*

### Keywords

history of otorhinolaryngology, history of medicine in Warsaw

### Corresponding author

Andrzej Kierzek; [andrzejkierzek@wp.pl](mailto:andrzejkierzek@wp.pl)

The beginning of the Warsaw otorhinolaryngology took place in the first years of the XIX century. Warsaw was at that time under Prussian and Russian annexation. The development of science of medicine was very difficult.

An important and decisive role in the development of otorhinolaryngology in Warsaw in those times of such surgeons as Ignacy Fijałkowski, Jan Tomorowicz, Józef Czekierski and such internists as August F. Wolff is well-known [6].

The first Warsaw phoniatrist was Jan Siestrzyński (1788-1824), the physician of Institute for the Deaf and Dumb in Warsaw, an author of the work "The theory and mechanism of the speech" (1820). Siestrzyński started his work with deaf children using his own phonetic method instead of the mimic method in their rehabilitation [4,6].

The laryngoscopy was introduced to the medical care in Warsaw on the turn of the 5th and 6th decades of the XIX century by Konstanty Karwowski (1834-1918) and Ignacy Baranowski (1833-1919). In the second half of the XIX century the achievements of such Warsaw surgeons as Polikarp Girsztowt, Hipolit Korzeniowski, Julian Kosiński and Franciszek Jawdyński for the development of the otorhinolaryngology in the Polish territories were very considerable.

The first total laryngectomy (total removal of the larynx), was performed in 1873 by Christian Albert Theodor Billroth (1829-1894),

a well-known Viennese surgeon and a pupil of Bernhard Rudolph von Langenbeck (1810-1887). This Billroth's achievement was an epoch-making event in the history of surgery and also laryngology [7].

The first total laryngectomy in Polish territories performed in 1877 by Julian Kosiński (1833-1914), head of the Surgical Clinic of Imperial Warsaw University was very important attainment. It was the 14th operation of this kind in the world. Several total laryngectomies were carried out by Franciszek Jawdyński (1851-1896), called the father of Polish head and neck surgery. Jawdyński performed the different head and neck surgical interventions in the treatment of rhinoscleroma, juvenile angiofibroma, severe inflammatory complications in the neck due to foreign bodies, partial mandibular resection in actinomycosis, laryngoplasty in laryngeal stenosis and resections of laryngeal and pharyngeal tumours [1]. Jawdyński was the first Pole to excise a malignant neck cancer together with the lymph nodes. He was a world pioneer of radical neck dissection on account of neck malignant tumours [2,3,6,8,9].

The failures of the first laryngectomies were due to such factors as the ignorance of shock pathophysiology, the inability to ensure the patency of the airways during and after the operation, which would result in lung and mediastinum infections, massive haemorrhages and so on.

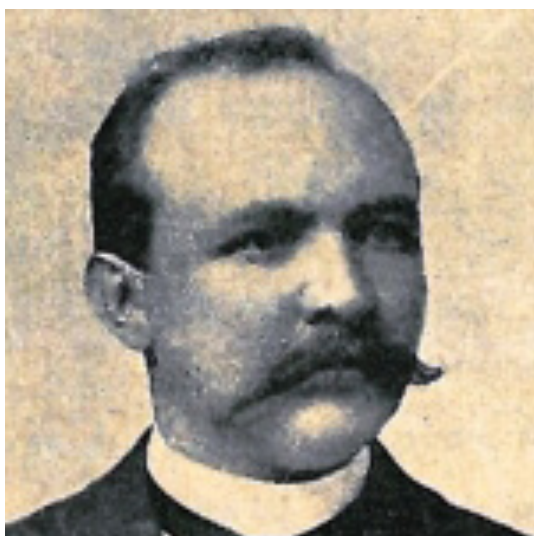


Figure 1 Franciszek Jawdyński

But the primary cause was the lack of constructive collaboration between the laryngologists and the surgeons.

The date of birth of Warsaw otorhinolaryngology was 1881. Main of professional and scientific centres in otorhinolaryngology were the Varsovian hospitals. The origin of several otorhinolaryngological institutions in Warsaw: rhinolaryngological ward of St. Roch Hospital founded in 1881 by Teodor Heryng (1847-1925), otological ward of Ujazdowski Hospital founded also in 1881 by Teodor Heiman (1848-1917), laryngological out-patient ward of St. Spirit Hospital founded in 1883 by Alfred Marcin Sokołowski (1850-1924) – played an important professional and scientific role in otorhinolaryngology. The major otorhinolaryngological operations were performed however at surgical wards. The foundation of otolaryngological ward at Orthodox Jew Hospital, the first otolaryngological ward in Warsaw founded in 1903 by Leopold Lubliner (1863-1937) was a very significant achievement. The importance of various otorhinolaryngological institutions: hospital wards out-patient clinics, infirmaries and consulting-rooms in the formation of the new specialization – otorhinolaryngology was appreciable. Mentioned above the Deaf and Dumb Institute in Warsaw, established in the beginning of the XIXth century was the first phoniatrial infirmary in Warsaw. The best known were: “The Warsaw Infirmary for the Disturbances of Speech” founded in 1892 by Władysław Ołtuszewski, “The Karol Benni and Ludwik Guranowski’s Otological Infirmary” founded in

1894, “The Zdzisław Dmochowski’s Rhinological Infirmary” established in 1895. Many Warsaw physicians practiced in otolaryngology in private infirmaries for the poor and in consulting-rooms. The formation of those specialistic otological and laryngological institutions was a decisive factor for the development of otolaryngology [5].

Teodor Heryng was one of the pioneers of Polish and world laryngology. His achievements are

of the results of his work as a physician, scientific researcher and superb organizer. He worked at the Rudolph Virchow Institute of Pathological Anatomy in Berlin. It was here that Heryng became interested in laryngology and he alter went to Vienna and Paris to further his studies at the clinics of contemporary masters namely Leopold Schroetter, Karl Stoerck, Johann Schnitzler, Joseph Gruber, Adam Politzer, Hermann Nothnagel, and Pierre Charles Fauvel. The many-sided

medical education of this physician in various European medical centers together with his energy and uncanny resourcefulness made possible to him to contrive original therapeutic methods (for example the method of surgical therapy of larynx tuberculosis by curettement) and to devise instruments and apparatuses of surprising technical sophistication (apparatus for inhalations, diaphanoscopy for the diagnosis and treatment of laryngeal diseases).

Tuberculosis was one of the most important problems of contemporary laryngology. This Warsaw physician dedicated most of his and his collaborator works to this subject. In 1872 Heryng published his work on the possibility



Figure 2 Teodor Heryng



Figure 3 Alfred M. Sokołowski

of inoculation of tuberculosis in "Proceeding of the Warsaw Medical Society" ("Pamiętnik Towarzystwa Lekarskiego Warszawskiego") ten years before Robert Koch discovered bacillus of tuberculosis. Heryng HH

Curettement was an admitted extraordinary surgical methods for those days, method of choice in the treatment of some forms of larynx tuberculosis, using instruments of his own invention. This original method was published by Heryng in 1888 in "Deutsche medizinische Wochenschrift" and also later published in Germany, France and Russia.

In 1889 Heryng published his method of transillumination of the maxillary sinus with a lamp of his own invention. This method he also applied to the internal organs especially to the stomach.

The widespread contacts of Heryng with the European scientific world as well as his active participation in many medical meetings, congresses, consultations are well known. In 1892 he was offered the post of head of Laryngological Department at the University of Innsbruck, which he declined. In 1889 Heryng founded the Otolaryngological Section of the Warsaw Medical Society, the first Polish society of otolaryngologists. He was an ordinary and honorary member of numerous scientific societies in Polish territories and abroad (Berlin, Budapest, Liege, London, New York, Odessa, Petersburg)

In 1905 this an unusually inquisitive and scrupulous researcher published "The methods of medical examination and local therapy of disease



Figure 4 . Karol Benni

of the larynx". It was one of the best handbooks on laryngology in the beginning of the XXth century containing the comprehensive medical knowledge of this time. This textbook was published also in Russia in 1909 and in France in 1912.

Teodor Heryng, Teodor Heiman, Alfred Marcin Sokołowski and Leopold Lubliner were the creators of rhinological, ontological and otorhinolaryngological schools in Warsaw. They were good teachers of a great number of distinguished otolaryngologists.

The achievements of such Warsaw otorhinolaryngologists as: Karol Benni (1843-1916) – otiatrics, social care organizer and lover of literature and fine arts, Zdzisław Dmochowski (1864-1924) – otolaryngologist, anatomopathologist, afterwards head anatomopathological department at the University of Lvov, Konrad Dobrski (1840-1915) – rhinologist and internist,

the man who helped Henryk Sienkiewicz, a famous Polish writer in his literary début, Feliks Antoni Erbrich (1874-1938) – otolaryngologist, head of otolaryngology department at the University of Warsaw, Gustaw Fritsche (1838-1891) – otiatrist, deontologist, social activist, Ludwik Guranowski (1853-1926) – otiatrist, publisher, Bronisław Karbowski (1884-1940), – otolaryngologist, labiryntologist, Władysław Ołtuszewski (1853-1922) – phoniatri, the organizer of the first Polish phoniatic department, Jan Sędziak (1861-1932) – otolaryngologist, well-known in Anglo-Saxon countries, the author of famous rhinolaryngological books, especially “Die böartigen Geschwülste des Kehlkopfes und ihre Radicalbehandlung” (Wiesbaden 1897), Zygmunt Srebrny (1860-1941) – otolaryngologist, social activist, Jan Szmurło (1867-1952) – otolaryngologist, the author of the first complete otolaryngological handbook, afterwards head of otolaryngological department at the University of Vilnius, Bronisław Taczanowski (1840-1912) – otiatrist, psychiatrist, the author of the first otolaryngological books – for the Polish otorhinolaryngology are permanent [4].

Their achievements determined the progressive trend of Polish science at the second half of the XIXth century and the beginning of the XXth century.

The level of the Warsaw otorhinolaryngology of the XIXth century corresponded, in general, with the European one. The Warsaw’s doctors dealing with diagnosis and curing of ear, nose, throat and larynx diseases rather did not stray from the foreign doctors in their medical knowledge especially regarding the larynx diseases.

Many diagnostic and therapeutic innovations were within up-to-date European medical knowledge. For instance, Siostrzyński’s nad

Ołtuszewski’s achievements in phoniatri, Hellin’s operative procedure of ozaena, Jawdyński’s and Kosiński’s attainments in surgery of throat and larynx or Heryng’s achievements in operative surgery of the larynx curettage in tuberculosis treatment have become a progressive trend of the Polish medical knowledge of that time.

The Warsaw otolaryngologists were equivalent partners with European and world scientists.

### Resumo

Mallonge oni prezentas la atingojn de kuracistoj de la 19-a jarcento kaj la unuaj jardekoj de la 20-a jarcento, kiuj kreis la polan otorinolaringologion. La plej konataj estas Teodor Heryng, Alfred Sokołowski kaj kirurgoj Franciszek Jawdyński kaj Julian Kosinski. Aliaj konataj Varsoviaj kuracistoj, kies meritoj estis signifaj, ankaŭ estis prilumitaj

### References

1. Bień, S., Kierzek, A., Wojnar, A.: Otorinolaryng. Przeg. klin. 2012, 11, 3, 95-100
2. Ferlito, A, Johnson, J.T., Rinaldo A., Pratt, L.W., Fagan, J. J., Weir, N and all: Laryngoscope 2007, 117, 797-802
3. Folz, B. J., Ferlito, A., Silver, C. E., Oloffson, J., Bradley P. J., Bień, S.: Eur. Arch. Otorhinolaryngol. 2007, 264, 455-460
4. Kierzek, A.: Otolaryngolodzy warszawscy w XIX wieku. Wrocław 1998, 287-296
5. Kierzek, A.: Otolaryng. Pol. 2003, 57, 5, 761-764
6. Kierzek, A.: Rozwój warszawskiej myśli otolaryngologicznej w XIX wieku. Wrocław 1997, 22-27
7. Kierzek, A., Paprocka-Borowicz, M., Pozowski, A., Kuciel-Lewandowska, J.: Contemp. Oncology 2013, 17, 6, 473-476
8. Kosiński, J.: Pam. Tow. Lek. Warsz. 1877, 73, 3, 498-505
9. Olszewski, E.: Otolaryng. Pol. 1975, 29, 2, 189