



PHARMACY PRACTICE IN BRANICEVO DISTRICT (SERBIA) – 150-YEAR OLD HISTORY TRADITION

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In the district of Branicevo in Serbia the first healthcare facilities were set up during the reign of Milos Obrenovic, with an apothecary and community hospital founded in the middle of the 19th century.

Namely, the first apothecary was opened in 1857 by the pharmacist Jovan Pokorni who played a crucial role in the development of pharmacy service in the city of Pozarevac nowadays representing the capital of the district. Pharmacist Pokorni had an admirable reputation being an excellent pharmacist, honest and a job dedicated man. The apothecary offered its good services throughout the centuries, and was perfectly equipped to prepare medicines by art supplying with them the citizens, royal guard and physicians from the district of Pozarevac.

There is a documented record on five apothecaries in Pozarevac and several apothecaries in the surrounding towns owned privately and operating between 1857 and 1949, when they are all nationalized.

In this paper we shall cast the light on a very few but important details from the long 150-year history of pharmacy practice in Branicevo district. The focus will be on the pharmaceutical heritage preserved in the apothecaries that are the part of the Community Pharmacy Chain Pozarevac which cover the whole district. Special attention will be on newly discovered pharmacists' prescription books (Manual receptorum) from the periods 1882-1883, 1883-1889, 1889-1890, 1896-1899 that were in use in the Saint Angel Pharmacy in Veliko Gradiste near Pozarevac. This type of books were handwritten and were obligatory by the law to be kept as record books of drug preparation made by a doctor's order. Since very rare in Serbian pharmaceutical heritage this makes the discovery more significant.