

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OVER THE LEGAL REGLEMENTATIONS OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL PRACTICE IN THE ROMANIAN PROVINCES. FIRST HEALTH LAW IN ROMANIA

MARIA BESCIU, N. MARCU, VALENTINA SOROCEANU*

"Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest

**corresponding author: valentina_soroceanu@yahoo.com*

Abstract

Historical, social and ideological conditions caused uneven development of pharmacies in Romanian provinces (namely Wallachia, Moldavia and Transylvania). In Transylvania (in Sibiu) opened the first pharmacy called "The Eagle" in the fifteenth century (1494). Much later, "Colțea" Hospital was established in Bucharest (1705) with its own pharmacy since 1715, and in Iasi, the first pharmacy opened in 1757, together with "St. Spiridon" Hospital.

In 1812 it was published in Vienna, the Austrian Pharmacopoeia, Ist Edition, which together with IInd to Vth editions, were officially used in the Romanian provinces.

In December 1862, the first edition of the Romanian Pharmacopoeia was published, which was written at the initiative of Carol Davila by a committee under the leadership of C.C. Hepites.

After the Organic Regulations of Wallachia (1831) and Moldavia (1832) and after the first Romanian Pharmacopoeia, an important regulation was the first health law (1874).

The Health Law of 1874 included in Chapter III aspects regarding the functioning of a pharmacy, as follows: "Pharmacy supervision", "New establishment and termination of concessions", "Pharmaceutical Personnel", "The dispensing of medicines by staff not represented by concessional pharmacists", "Pharmaceuticals Corporations", "Transitional measures"

Rezumat

Condițiile istorice, sociale și ideologice au determinat o dezvoltare neuniformă a provinciilor române (Țara Românească, Moldova și Transilvania) și implicit a farmaciilor din aceste regiuni diferite ale țării. Astfel, în Transilvania, prima farmacie a apărut în Sibiu în 1494, pe când în București s-a înființat în 1715, pe lângă Spitalul Colțea, iar la Iași în 1757, odată cu Spitalul Sf. Spiridon.

În 1812 a fost publicată la Viena, prima ediție a Farmacopeei Austriece, ca și ediția a II^a și a V^a, au fost oficial folosite în toate provinciile românești. În decembrie 1862 a fost publicată prima ediție a Farmacopeei Române, la inițiativa lui Carol Davila.

Un alt moment de o importanță istorică deosebită a fost apariția primei legi sanitare, în 1874.

Keywords: historical aspects, pharmaceutical reglementations, Romanian provinces.

Historical, social and ideological conditions caused uneven development of pharmacies in Romanian provinces (namely Wallachia, Moldavia and Transylvania). In Transylvania (in Sibiu) opened the first pharmacy called "The Eagle" in the fifteenth century (1494). Much later, "Colțea" Hospital was established in Bucharest (1705) with its own pharmacy since 1715, and in Iasi, the first pharmacy opened in 1757, together with "St. Spiridon" Hospital.

Since the sixteenth century, in Transylvania, it was used Valerius Cordus book "*Dispensatorium pharmacopolarum*", and later, in 1570, after the publication of "*Dispensatorium pro pharmacopoesis Viennensis*" in Austria, this was also adopted in Transylvania.

In 1602 "*Centumvires*" – the council of 100 men of Brasov – decided that the pharmacists work should be inspected twice a year and the doctor or the pharmacist should be employed only if they were good professionals.

Another paper named "*Ordo Pharmacopoerum Viennensium*" published in Vienna in 1644, covering in 34 paragraphs the major issues of pharmaceutical activity, is the unique coding of pharmaceutical principles and provisions for the Austrian Empire.

During the reign of Matei Basarab in 1652, it was published in Targoviste (Wallachia) '*pravila*' "*Correction of law*" („*Îndreptarea legii*"), in which there were mentioned provisions for poisons commercialization.

Because the pharmaceutical taxes from 1744 and 1765, valid also in Transylvania, created discontent (due to the fact that they did not take into account the specific historical situation of the provinces and the possibilities for local medical supplies and material capitalization), in October 1753, Michael Felfalusi prepared a new project for the inspection of pharmacies in Transylvania. These shortcomings led the authorities to establish a Transylvanian provincial tax.

The doctors Michael Felfalusi, Jacob Huter, Andreas Soterius and the pharmacist M. Ahlefed developed projects to prepare the official list of medications. Although it was considered interesting, the project was not approved. Only in 1774 it was published in Vienna „*Pharmacopoea Austriaco Provincialis*" and later on "*Taxa medicamentorum in Pharmacopoea Austriaco Provincialis contentorum*" (1776).

Among the old documents regulating the pharmaceutical practice, we can mention: the charter ('*hrisovul*'), the decree ('*pitacul*'), '*nizamul*' and the deed ('*zapisul*').

"Charter" ('*hrisovul*') was a document, enforced with royal signature and seal, which reinforced someone's rights on a property or privilege. It is

the most representative document, usually written on parchment or thick quality paper, beginning with the title “Royal decree” (*‘Hrisov domnesc’*); e.g.: “By God mercy, We John Sandu Sturza VV, Lord of Moldavia”, followed by nice hand-written text in strong ink without erasures. The first word was written with special care and decoration, but not blossomed, like in church books.

“Decree” (*‘pitacul’*) was the princely / royal order, lordliness degree (official document, written decree, order, provision).

‘Nizamul’ was the name given to a guild, in which the rights and duties of members were specified.

“Deed” (*‘zapisul’*) was document, purchase or sale bill (document, written proof).

Alexander Moruzzi ordered in 1794 to verify the diplomas and certificates in Bucharest apothecary, the drug quality, and the tax duty ("to follow the same price as Transylvania tax" – respectively the Austrian Provincial Tax).

In Wallachia (*‘Țara Românească’*), Alexander Ipsilanti regulated for the first time the functioning of *‘spițerii’* by “decree” (order) in 1780: “Go and investigate all pharmacists (*‘spițeri’*) who are worthy of being fully craft science and keep in their shops, now and always, good, fresh, clean and good worked medicines,... And after you put in trim, then we want to regulate the medicines price, in order to be clear for everybody the buying price.” („*Să cercetați din toți spițerii care dintr-înșii sunt vrednici a fi cu știința meșteșugului deplin și a ține în prăvăliile lor, acum și întotdeauna, doftorii, bune, proaspete, curate și lucrate cumsecade,... Și după ce a-ți pune în orânduială, apoi și la prețul doftoriilor voim să facem rânduială, spre a ști fieșcare cu ce preț să cumpere*”).

Prohibition of supply of “heavy” medicines (*‘doftorii grele’*) without a prescription was done through the “decree” (*‘Pitacul’*) of Nicolae Caragea in 1782. “Not every shopkeeper is free to sell *‘șoricioaică’* and rifle grass and other harmful... also, none of the grocers or other shopkeeper are not allowed to keep selling medicines and remedies, only pharmacies (*‘spițeriile’*) were allowed to do this.” („*Nu este slobod fieșcare prăvăliaș a ține de vânzare șoricioaică și iarba de pușcă și de alte asemenea vătămătoare ...nimeni dintre băcani ori alți prăvăliași doftorii și leacuri să n-aibă voie a ține de vânzare, fără numai spițeriile*”).

Due to several complaints caused by the activity of pharmacies (*‘spițerii’*), Alexander Ipsilanti in 1797 decided to make an inspection by the doctors supervisor (*‘arhiatros’*) and 2-3 of the best-known city doctors. Following this inspection there were found several irregularities, which

resulted in the preparation of “Drugstore Nizam in 10 tips” (*„Nizamului spițerilor în 10 ponturi”*) which was used for two decades.

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In Moldavia, in 1814, Scarlat Calimachi appointed a committee to establish drug prices taking into account the invoices; this is the beginning of the Romanian tax. A drug charge for the Moldavian pharmacists (*‘spițerii’*) was approved in 1854. In the same year it was founded in Moldavia the association of pharmacists (*‘spiteri’*) named *“Gremiul Spiteresc”*. In the Organic Regulations of 1831 and 1832, in addition to administrative aspects, there were also legislated aspects regarding the functionality of pharmacies in Wallachia and Moldavia.

The Superior Medical Board decided in 1862 that the distance between two pharmacies should be 60 *‘stânjeni’* (about 120 m) and appointed the committee for drafting the pharmaceutical tax for the Romanian United Countries (*‘Principatele Unite Române’*). In December, the same year, the first edition of the Romanian Pharmacopoeia was published, which was written at the initiative of Carol Davila by a committee under the leadership of C.C. Hepites.

After the Organic Regulations of Wallachia (1831) and Moldavia (1832) and after the first Romanian Pharmacopoeia, an important regulation was **the first health law** (1874).

The Health Law of 1874 included in Chapter III aspects regarding the functioning of a pharmacy, as follows:

- “Pharmacy supervision” (*‘Priveghiarea farmaciei’*);
- “New establishment and termination of concessions” (*‘Înființarea nouă și încetarea concesiilor’*);
- “Pharmaceutical Personnel” (*‘Personalul farmaceutic’*);
- “The dispensing of medicines by staff not represented by concessional pharmacists” (*‘Dispensarea medicamentelor de către persoane cari nu sunt farmaciști concesionați’*);
- “Pharmaceuticals Corporations” (*‘Corporațiile farmaceutice’*);
- “Transitional measures” (*‘Măsuri tranzitorii’*).

Under this law, the academic title of pharmacist and the assistant degree conferred by the Faculty of Medicine (Pharmacy School), with the approval of the Ministry of Culture and Public Education. The same institution also verified the academic titles of pharmacists acquired abroad.

The academic title of pharmacist recognized by the Ministry of Culture and Public Education did not imply the right to open a pharmacy;

this right was obtained under a special concession of the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry which had also in his attribution the control of pharmacies through the Superior Medical Board.

Officinal drugs (mandatory) will be prepared according to the Pharmacopoeia. Annually or whenever there were progresses that implied additions or changes of Pharmacopoeia, these were published at the proposal of the Superior Medical Board in the form of a supplement. The price of medicines was established by the pharmaceutical fee.

Failure in respecting the regulations and the law was punished by a fine starting with 100 lei and up to 2,000 lei and closing the pharmacy.

This law gave the right for managing to the Romanian pharmacists; for the foreign pharmacists this right was obtained only in the absence of a Romanian pharmacist. Changing the pharmacy master (*'diriginte de farmacie'*) was allowed done with the consent of the Ministry of Interior.

The necessity of a new pharmacy is declared when the population of a village increased with 5,000 inhabitants. The Ministry of Interior was supposed to announce a contest for concession for opening a pharmacy, which took place two months after its publication. In large cities, where there were several pharmacies, the required distance between them was at least 200 meters.

The concession for opening a pharmacy was allowed for a particular person, for life and for a given locality. This concession couldn't be transmitted to another pharmacist. The Romanian pharmacists had priority in obtaining the concession and only when they were missing, this concession could be given to foreign pharmacists (but only up to the year 1878). The law also stated that a pharmacy couldn't be established if there was no doctor in the village.

The concession expired in three situations:

- when the pharmacy did not begin to function in 9 months after obtaining the concession;
- when the concessionaire was punished for murder;
- after the death of the concessionaire.

Regarding the pharmaceutical staff, the normative act stipulates that this should be represented by: master pharmacists, pharmacy assistants, assistants and students.

It was stated that the master pharmacists were those who obtained the pharmacy concession under this law, but those who got this right before the publication of this law, also could keep their quality.

The right to practice pharmacy or to lead a pharmacy might have been withdrawn for a limited time (a year and a half) by tribunals and courts of appeal in certain situations.

This normative act specified two instances in which persons other than pharmacists were allowed to prepare / possess drugs for patients: physicians in villages in which there were no pharmacies and veterinarian physicians which could prepare medicines themselves for the cattle in their care.

Regarding the pharmaceutical corporations, the law stated that the College of Pharmacists of Bucharest and the College of Pharmacists of Iasi remained dissolved. Pharmacists from one city or from one or more counties could form professional corporations. The statutes of these corporations and the conditions imposed to the pharmacists would have been approved by the Ministry of Interior.

The law stated that transitional measures for verification of ownership of pharmacies in the country implied the organization of two committees, one in Bucharest and another in Iasi. Each committee had a member and a prosecutor of the appeal court, two delegates from the Ministry of Interior and a pharmacist. If the pharmacy was found operating without complying with the provisions of organic regulations it was closed.

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This historical overview covers the establishment of a mass education system in the Romanian provinces at the end of the nineteenth century, education politics in Greater Romania following the First World War, education during state socialism and post-socialist developments following two decades of reform. The key argument is that, while always serving a nation-building script, the Romanian education system has always followed its own evolutionary logic.Â Modernity and its Varieties. A Historical Sociological Analysis of the Romanian Modern Experience. PhD diss., European University Institute.Google Scholar. Boia, L. 2001. Among the practices that the Romans adopted from the Greeks was the theory of the four humors, which remained popular in Europe until the 17th century. Greek influence. Share on Pinterest. The temple of Aesculapius stood on the Tiber Island. The original is now long gone, but this Renaissance-era replica may bear some resemblance to it. The Romans had their first introduction to Greek medicine when Archagathus of Sparta, a medical practitioner, arrived in Rome in 219 B.C.E. Other scientists and doctors came from Greece, first as prisoners of war and later because they could earn more money in ...Â After the fall of the Roman Empire, medical knowledge in Europe did not make significant progress again until the Renaissance period.