

---

## HISTORICAL SCIENCES

### DECLINE OF TRUTOVSKY'S CLINIC: THE ROLE OF A MANAGER IN A FUNCTIONING OF THE EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTITUTION

Alkov Volodymyr<sup>1</sup>

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-571-89-3\\_62](https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-571-89-3_62)

Doctor Ya. Ya. Trutovsky organized his own private psycho-neurological hospital in 1900 in cooperation with his companions [5]. Since that time and until the sudden death of the owner in 1914, it was the second largest private unit of such a direction in Kharkov and one of the biggest ones in the Russian Empire. For years, fashionableness was the characteristic feature of the institution. But in 1914 the situation began changing.

Exact date of Trutovsky's death is unclear. For the last time Ya. Ya. Trutovsky was mentioned in the "Kharkovskiy calendar" by the place of residence of 1914 (calendar was composed in 1913 [2, p. 65]), and he was mentioned as a Privat-docent in 1915 (composed in 1914 [3, p. 72]). In the following 1916, he was not mentioned in either of the periodicals [4], but it should be remembered that this is a situation of 1915. In the reference book "Ves Kharkov" 1915, published in 1914, it was pointed out that the director of the hospital was his ex-employee A. P. Rapoport, and Trutovsky was mentioned only as a Privat-docent, moreover, he was not mentioned in the list of residents, and at the former address in the building № 18 at Nikolaevskaya str. there lived another person. Nevertheless, houses №№ 7 and 9 at Chernoglazovskaya str. were still registered to his name [6, p. 91, 158, 173] (the same situation repeated the next year). However, it may be explained with inertness and insufficiently operational update of data. In the same periodical of 1916 (made in 1915), Trutovsky was not mentioned in the list of city doctors, and his daughter lived at the address Yeparkhialnaya str., 5 [7, p. 317]. Thus, it can be claimed that Ya. Ya. Trutovsky lived in Kharkiv since 1885 till 1914. The most likely reason for the disappearance of any data is a disease, which had struck 47-year old doctor, as a result of which he had lost his ability to work and died soon. In the catalog of the Russian National Library the date of the death is pointed out; it is 1914.

Anyway, after the withdrawal of Ya. Ya. Trutovsky from business, the quality of medical care in his hospital "dropped", although the institution was called after his name for a long time. In the hospital which was run by widow of A. P. Rapoport, who died in 1914 (she had no medical education) [1, Fund 4. Reg. 183. F. 234. Sh. 2], bedbugs multiplied in great number. Priest F. Efremov, whose daughter was admitted

---

<sup>1</sup> Kharkiv National Medical University, Ukraine

there, complained that patients could not sleep because of insects. The food was unsatisfactory, valuable items disappeared, in particular, a golden ring of the patient. They did not even return all the linen, although they made her father sign a receipt about its return. Having spent 2 months in the hospital, the patient lost 14 pounds. Attendance and conditions of even provincial zemstvo hospital were characterized by the priest as much better. The difference in payment was also considerable, fee for treatment of his daughter in Rapoport's hospital was 210 roubles per month, in the provincial zemstvo hospital fee equalled 40 roubles (obviously paid boarding is meant). Private doctors talked relatives out of putting diseased people in the zemstvo hospital [1, Fund 304. Reg. 1. F. 861. Sh. 6], and it is not strange, because they would have lost their job otherwise. This scandalous accident is not uncommon. In 1917, a warrant officer, whose name is unknown due to illegibly written surname, complained on insanitary conditions and great number of bedbugs, which bothered patients. Several caught insects were enclosed to the letter. As the inspection of hospital conditions found out at that time that the walls needed whitewash and plaster, bedbugs were also found in the mattresses and soft furniture, poor ventilation and overcrowding had also been found. Patients were put in the lobbies, in the small wards there stayed 4 patients. Water closet turned out to be disgustingly dirty as in 1904. The men's department lacked lighting [1, Fund 4. Reg. 183. F. 541. Sh. 1, 7-9].

Attitude to the mid-level and junior medical staff also caused dissatisfaction. In 1917, a complaint written by employees and nurses on difficult working conditions, living in a wet and infectious basement, bad food, beating, insults, low payment, fires of those, who demanded an increase in payments, were described. As a result an inspection was appointed with the participation of city doctor A. M. Popov and sanitary doctor R. M. Rosenberg. Delegates from the staff confirmed that supply and maintenance manager Theofil Heimanovych Rapoport, brother of late owner really beat the servant, fact of fires had also been confirmed, physician assistants called servants "bastards" and "idiots", beat their hands.

It should be noted that in the spring of 1917, when the events took place, there were 44 employees for 52 patients, and there were 36 actual diseased people, mostly women. Employees worked in two shifts for 12 hours. Men were paid 15-20 roubles, women – 12-15, which is not much. In the morning they were fed with tea, bread and herring, for lunch they had borsch, meat and fish, cereal, for supper they had tea, borsch or soup. Food according to the results of the inspection turned out to be of satisfactory level, unlike everything else.

The problem of living in the wet basement had also been confirmed. Number of beds was not sufficient either; servants had to sleep two people on one bed. Water closet was traditionally kept in disgustingly unsatisfactory condition, it was impossible to get to it without getting dirty [1, Fund 4. Reg. 183. F. 234. Sh. 2-3].

For the first time there happened an unexpected event in the hospital – a suicide of a patient with firearms. It was committed by 22-year old nervous student G. O. Yarosh. He turned to the hospital by himself, but no problems with psyche were found by the doctors, only neurasthenia was noticed. He as a calm person was put into women nervous department. Doctor A. K. Gan at the concilium confirmed

the diagnosis. The patient was prescribed bathes every two days, arsenic under the skin, mangle-shower every day, vibratory back massage, sun baths and galvanization of the spine, caffeine under the skin. The student was very nervous because of his health and all the time he approached the doctors with the slightest reason. He like all the nervous patients with sense had right to leave the hospital freely, he left for the city many times and returned. Nevertheless, once after returning from the city he headed to the cloakroom of hydropathical establishment and shot himself with "Nagan" in the heart. Administrator of the hospital doctor A. P. Rapoport and hospital physician G. H. Niggol provided him with first aid. The case was immediately reported to the authorities and surgeons were called. During search of Yarosh belongings the revolver was not found, apparently one of the servants got rid of it cautiously. It turned out that the weapon was brought from home by the suicide; it was a present from his friend, who was killed at the war. He himself wanted to enlist, but his father prohibited him to do it [1, Fund 4. Reg. 180. F. 307. Sh. 1-6].

During the revolution years, mentions about ex-hospital of Trutovsky disappeared. Only in 1921, during the time of the NEP at Chernoglazovskaya str, 5 (apparently numeration had changed) there again was private hospital for nervous and mentally diseased people belonging to doctors V. A. Zhdanov and F. A. Hurevych [8, p. 68], but no continuity between it and the previous institution has been established.

As we can see, Trutovsky achieved success in his field, but it turned out that an order in his modern exemplary private hospital relied on him alone and that led to its obvious collapse after Trutovsky withdrawal from the business.

### References:

1. Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Khar'kovskoi oblasti [State archive of Kharkov region]. (in Russian)
2. Khar'kovskii kalendar' na 1914 g. (1914) [Kharkov calendar for 1914]. Kharkov : Khar'kovskii gubernskii statisticheskii komitet. (in Russian)
3. Khar'kovskii kalendar' na 1915 g. (1915) [Kharkov calendar for 1915]. Kharkov : Khar'kovskii gubernskii statisticheskii komitet. (in Russian)
4. Khar'kovskii kalendar' na 1916 g. (1916) [Kharkov calendar for 1916]. Kharkov : Khar'kovskii gubernskii statisticheskii komitet. (in Russian)
5. Reklama (1900) [Advertisement]. Yuzhnyi krai. 27 of November. (in Russian)
6. Ves' Khar'kov na 1915 god (spravochnaya kniga) (1914) [All of Kharkov for 1915 (reference book)]. Kharkov : Elkin. (in Russian)
7. Ves' Khar'kov na 1916 god (spravochnaya kniga) (1915) [All of Kharkov for 1916 (reference book)]. Kharkov : Elkin. (in Russian)
8. Ves' Khar'kov na 1922 god (spravochnaya kniga) (1921) [All of Kharkov for 1921 (reference book)]. Kharkov : Vseukrekspechat'. (in Russian)