

Historical Contribution of Otorhinolaryngology in Split Region till 1923

Petar Ivanišević¹, Milan Ivanišević², Mirko Kontić¹ and Marisa Klančnik¹

¹ University of Split, School of Medicine, University Hospital Centre Split, Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Split, Croatia

² University of Split, School of Medicine, University Hospital Centre Split, Department of Ophthalmology, Split, Croatia

ABSTRACT

The beginnings of the modern otorhinolaryngology in Croatia started in the second half of the 19th century. Before that, there were only rare attempts of some doctors who published medical papers touching the frame of otorhinolaryngology. Mainly those were the PhD's dissertations at Vienna, Budapest and Padua University. Among them there was dr Ivo Manola from Split, who in Padua in 1834 took a doctor's degree dealing with otologic diseases. Dr Nikola Fertilio (Nerežišća the island of Brač, 1861 – Trieste, 1928) was the first otorhinolaryngologist out of a hospital in Split and Dalmatia. He studied medicine partly in Graz and Vienna, where he graduated in 1890. During 1903 he finished several otorhinolaryngological courses which were held by professors Viktor Urbantschitsch and Alfred Bing and by private doctor assistant professor Markus Hajek. During the winter 1903/04 he attended the »Semestralkurs über praktische Orhenheilkunde« at professor Adam Politzer, founder and managing director of the first Otology Clinic in Vienna and the world in 1873. He worked in Trieste, where he practiced otorhinolaryngology. Dr. Fertilio a specialist for diseases of nose, ear and throat, occasionally, usually during his holidays, came from Trieste to Dalmatia (Split, Zadar, Šibenik, Dubrovnik and Kotor) to treat and operate patients. He was coming to Split from 1904 till 1914. He published and announced his commings in the local newspapers. He used to come in summer, most often in August and stayed from several days till two weeks. He stayed and had a practice in Hotel Bellevue. As there wasn't an otorhinolaryngologist in the regional hospital of Split till 1923, otorhinolaryngological operations were occasionally performed by doctors of other surgical branches. Otorhinolaryngologist dr Aleksandar Doršner came to Split hospital in 1923 and organized otorhinolaryngological service that he led till 1934.

Key words: otorhinolaryngology, history, Croatia

Introduction

Before the development of the scientific otorhinolaryngology (ORL) for the treatment of ear, nose and throat popular healing was applied and domestic remedies were used.

Don Frane Ivanišević gave folk descriptions of some ORL diseases and their treatments in the near hinterland of Split, in Poljica, more than 120 years ago^{1,2}.

Ear pain (otalgia, otitis media) was treated in different ways. The houseleek juice (*Sempervivum tectorum*) was dropped into ear for a very short time. Besides pain killing, it melted cerumen. Squeezed garlic liquid in hot olive oil was also put into ear to remove pain and to have antibacterial function. Pain and inflammation were relieved by an onion half cut or chopped and grilled, than wrapped in a

cloth, put on ear and fixed by a band. A little cloth tube soaked in wax was also put in ear and lit up at the end of it. The warmth would take out bacteria and cerumen.

Common cold (rhinosinusitis) was treated by staying in bed and keeping warm. Everything what was eaten and drunk had to be hot. Cooked elder flower with honey and hot wine with pepper were drunk. Inhalations were made by hot chamomile and sea water. Cough was healed by cooked wine with or without crushed almonds with shell.

For sorethroat (pharyngo-tonsillitis) gargling with sage, marshmallow or salt water was used. With strong sorethroat (diphtheria) syringing out of throat was done by water dissolved sulfur or spraying it with pure sulfur. In Split area vaccination, giving Behring's serum started around 1900, and then considerably less children died of diphtheria.

The first documents describing Croatian physicians interested in ORL dated at the beginning of 19th century. The beginnings of modern ORL in Croatia started at the end of 19th century. Before that, there were only rare attempts of some physicians who published medical papers touching the frame of otorhinolaryngology. Mainly those were the doctoral dissertations at Vienna, Budapest and Padua University³.

Dr. Ivo Manola a physician from Split wrote a dissertation 1834, about different ear diseases in Padua, entitled »De aurium morbis. Inauguralis disceptatio«^{4,5}. He was born on 29th of August 1802 in Split as Giovanni Battista Manola from father Zuanne and mother Angela⁶. He was high school graduate at classical gymnasium in Split 1820/1821 and high school leaver at Philosophy institute Liceum at Roman-Catholic Seminary in Split 1825/1826⁷.

ORL is relatively young medical branch. It is formed in the second half of 19th century after discovery of some technical tools which enabled direct observation of till then impervious nose, ear and throat cavities.

The first expert of ORL in Croatia was dr Gjuro Catti (1849 – 1923) born in Rijeka, long-term assistant of a laryngologist prof. dr. Leopold Schrötter (1837 – 1901) in Vienna⁸.

The first unofficial department of ORL pathology was organized at the Hospital Sestre milosrdnice in Zagreb, Ilica street 83 (today's Deaf department) lead by prof Theodor Wickerhauser the head of surgical ward.

ORL as a profession started to develop clinically in Clinical Hospital Sisters of Mercy in Zagreb at 1894 in the Third Department which was common for ORL, ophthalmology, dermatology and urology. The head was prof. Dragutin Mašek (1866 – 1956)⁹.

Dr. Nikola Fertilio was the first otorhinolaryngologist out of a hospital in Split and Dalmatia (Figure 1).

Fertilio family originates from the island of Brač, Nerežišća village. Their first family name was Obilinović, mentioned in official papers since 1560. One part of the family changed their surname into Fertilio (abundant) at the end of 17th century¹⁰. Nikola (Spasoje, Ante) Fertilio was born in Nerežišća on 30th of November 1861. His



Fig. 1. Dr. Nikola Fertilio (1861 – 1928).



Fig. 2. In the street Torre bianca 45 in Trieste there was dr. Nikola Fertilio otorhinolaryngological office.

father was Luka (1821 – 1908) property owner, and his mother was Jerka Kevešić (1827 – 1911) born in Nerežišća, they married 1850^{11,12}. Nikola had 10 brothers and sisters¹³⁻¹⁵.

He finished gymnasium (humanistic secondary school) in Split. In his home town he led social orchestra Societá Filarmonica de Neresi, founded in 1892¹⁶.

He married Olga Nazor (born in Ložišća the island of Brač on 27th of August, 1877) the daughter of Stjepan and Loda Harašić on the 15th of May in 1897 in Ložišća^{17,18}. She was a cousin of a famous Croatian writer and a poet Vladimir Nazor. They went to live in Trieste in 1902 and had 5 children who were all born in Italy (Gastone, Ferruccio, Alma, Vanda and Ada).

Olga went to Modena in 1941 (thirteen years after his death).

He studied medicine partly in Graz and Vienna. After the first semester in Vienna, in winter 1881/82 he came to Graz for a year, then came back to Vienna for summer semester in 1883. Winter of 1883/84 he is again in Graz and returns to Vienna summer 1884 to finish his studies.

D.r N. Fertilio
Specjalist za bolesti nosa, uha i grla
 propotovati će Dalmaciju i zadržat će se
 u Zadru dne 5, 6, 7, 8 kolov.
 » Šibeniku » 9, 10, 11 kolovoza
 » Splitu » 12, 13, 14, 15 »
 » Dubrovniku » 19, 20, 21 »
 » Kotoru » 23, 24, 25 »
 gdje će primati bolesnike i do potrebe izvadjati nužne operacije.

Fig. 3. An announcement from »Jedinstvo« newspaper from 1904.



Fig. 4. Hotel Bellevue in Split around 1910.

He completed all his exams during 1888, 1889 and 1890. He got medical degree on 8th of March in 1890¹⁹.

After graduation he took several long term ORL courses. In summer of 1903 he attended lectures held by prof. Viktor Urbantschitsch (»Ohrenheilkunde«), prof Alfred Bing (»Ohrenheilkunde«), a private assistant professor Markus Hajek (»Instrumentenkurs über Nasen- und Nebenhöhlenerkrankungen«) than again Hajek's »Diagnostischer Kurs«. During winter of 1903/1904 he attended »Semestralkurs über praktische Ohrenheilkunde« by professor Adam Politzer, founder and managing director of the first Otolaryngology Clinic in Vienna and the world in 1873¹⁹.

He worked in Trieste, where he practiced otorhinolaryngology. His doctor's office was at Torre bianca street, number 45 (the corner of Torrente street) (Figure 2). His working time was from 10 to 12 a.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m. he worked free of charge from 4 to 5 p.m.^{20,21}. He lived with his family in Trieste in Tiziano Vecellio street 18/IV²².

Dr. Nikola Fertilio, a specialist for diseases of nose, ear and throat, occasionally, usually during his holidays, came

from Trieste to Dalmatia to treat and operate patients. He used to come from 1904 (Figure 3) till 1914, and his last stay in Dalmatia was in 1923 in Zadar²³⁻²⁵.

His commings were published in the local newspapers. He used to come during summer in July and August and usually stayed for a month, visiting Split, Zadar, Šibenik, Dubrovnik and Kotor. Mostly he remained 3-7 days in each place, but in Split sometimes even two weeks. He stayed and had a practice in city hotels. In Split it was hotel Bellevue (Figure 4), in Zadar hotel Bristol, in Šibenik hotel Krka, in Dubrovnik hotel De la Ville, in Kotor hotel Puhalo²⁶⁻³⁰.

He died in Trieste on 13th of October 1928³¹.

As there wasn't an otorhinolaryngologist in the regional hospital of Split till 1923, ORL operations were occasionally performed by doctors of other surgical branches³². Otorhinolaryngologist dr Aleksandar Doršner came to Split hospital in 1923 and organized otorhinolaryngological service that he led till 1934³³.

REFERENCES

1. IVANIŠEVIĆ F, Poljica, narodni život i običaji (Književni krug, Split, 1987). – 2. BRENKO A, DUGAC Ž, RANDIĆ M, Narodna medicina (Etnografski muzej, Zagreb, 2001). – 3. MLADINA R, J Laryngol Otol, 119 (Suppl 30) (2005) 24. PMID: 16101052. – 4. GRMEK MD, Hrvatska medicinska bibliografija. Dio I: knjige sv. I: 1470-1875 (Izdavački zavod Jugoslavenske akademije, Zagreb, 1955). – 5. GHEZZO MP, I Dalmati all'Università di Padova dagli atti dei gradi accademici 1801-1947 (Società dalmata di storia patria, Venezia, 1993). – 6. Knjiga krštenih 1801.-1810., Župa sv. Dujma MKR, HR DAST-179/533. – 7. PIPOVIĆ S, 290 godina Klasične gimnazije u Splitu: 1700-1990 (Književni krug Split, Split, 1990). – 8. ŠKROBONJA A, MANESTAR D, MANESTAR M, Acta Med

Hist Adriat, 1 (2003) 27. – 9. POLJAK Ž, Liječničke novine, 28 (2001) 28. – 10. JUTRONIĆ A, Naselja i porijeklo stanovništva na otoku Braču. Zbornik za narodni život i običaje južnih Slavena (Jugoslavenska akademija, Zagreb, 1950). – 11. Matična knjiga rođenih, Župni ured Nerežišće, HR-DAST 179/351 1861.-1869. – 12. Matična knjiga vjenčanih, Župni ured Nerežišće, MKV 1826.-1850. – 13. Matična knjiga umrlih, Župni ured Nerežišće, MKR 1839.-1864. – 14. Matična knjiga rođenih, Župni ured Nerežišće, DAST 179/351 1861.-1869. – 15. Matična knjiga rođenih, Župni ured Nerežišće, HR DAST 179/352 1869.-1881. – 16. BEZIĆ J, Glazbeni svijet Bračana prema predaji prve polovice 20. stoljeća. In: JUTRONIĆ A Folklor otoka Brača (Brački zbornik, Supetar, 1975). – 17.

Ž.U. Ložišća MKR 1831.-1894. – 18. Ž.U. Ložišća MKV 1895.-1914. – 19. Archiv der Universität Wien, UA 2014/1371-02. – 20. Edinost. 1904 Dec 23; 3 (col. 4). – 21. Edinost. 1905 Jan 26; 4 (col. 2). – 22. Rokovnik Petra Gliga, 1911. – 23. Jedinstvo. 1904 Aug 2; 3 (col. 5). – 24. Narodni list. 1914 Jun 17; 2 (col. 5). – 25. Novo doba. 1923 Jul 23; 4 (col. 1). – 26. Naše Jedinstvo. 1905 Aug 3; (col. 4). – 27. Naše Jedinstvo. 1906 Jul 24; 2 (col. 2). – 28.

Naše Jedinstvo. 1909 Jul 22; 1 (col. 5). – 29. Naše Jedinstvo. 1913 Jun 26; 3 (col. 1). – 30. Narodni list. 1914 Jun 17; 2 (col. 5). – 31. Matični ured u Trstu, matična knjiga umrlih, No. 1362. – 32. Knjiga operacija 1921, DAS, OBS 55. – 33. RAČIĆ G, Klinika za bolesti uha, grla i nosa i kirurgiju lica i vrata KB Split. In: Mirić D et al Osamnaest godina Kliničke bolnice Split (KB Split, Jedinica za znanstveni rad, Split, 2004).

P. Ivanišević

*University Hospital Centre Split, Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Spinčićeva 1, 21000 Split, Croatia
e-mail: pivanisevic@kbsplit.hr*

POVIJESNI PRILOZI OTORINOLARINGOLOGIJI SPLITSKE REGIJE DO 1923. GODINE

SAŽETAK

Počeci moderne otorinolarinologije u Hrvatskoj padaju tek u drugu polovicu 19. stoljeća. Prije toga bilo je tek rijetkih pokušaja pojedinaca koji su objavljivali medicinske radove što su zasijecali i u okvir otorinolarinologije. Ponajviše su to bile doktorske disertacije na sveučilištima u Beču, Budimu i Padovi. Među njima bio je i dr. Ivo Manola iz Splita koji je 1834. godine u Padovi doktorirao iz područja ušnih bolesti. Dr. Nikola Fertilio (Nerežišća, o. Brač, 1861. – Trst, 1928.) bio je prvi izvanbolnički otorinolarinolog u Splitu i Dalmaciji. Studirao je medicinu naizmjenično u Grazu i Beču gdje je diplomirao 1890. godine. Tijekom 1903. godine završio je nekoliko tečajeva iz otorinolarinologije, koje su držali prof. Viktor Urbantschitsch, prof. Alfred Bing i privatni docent Markus Hajek. Zimi 1903./1904. pohađao je »Semestralkurs über praktische Ohrenheilkunde« profesora Adama Politzera, osnivača i direktora prve otološke klinike u Beču i u svijetu 1873. Radio je u Trstu, gdje je prakticirao otorinolarinologiju. Dr. Fertilio, specijalist za bolesti nosa, uha i grla povremeno, obično za svog godišnjeg odmora, dolazio je iz Trsta u Dalmaciju (Split, Zadar, Šibenik, Dubrovnik i Kotor) liječiti i operirati bolesnike njegove struke. U Split je dolazio od 1904. do 1914. godine. Svoje dolaske objavljivao bi u lokalnim novinama. Dolazio bi ljeti, najčešće u kolovozu i zadržao bi se od nekoliko dana do dva tjedna. Odsjedao bi i ordinirao u Hotelu Bellevue. Budući da u regionalnoj splitskoj bolnici do 1923. godine nije bilo otorinolarinologa, povremeno su otorinolarinološke operacije izvodili liječnici drugih kirurških grana. Otorinolarinolog dr. Aleksandar Doršner došao je u splitsku bolnicu 1923. godine i organizirao otorinolarinološku službu koju je vodio do 1934. godine.