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**A. G. PODREZ: THE INITIAL STAGE OF LIFE PATH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY**

On 30th of November 1852, Apollinarius G. Podrez was born who was destined to be one of the most famous Ukrainian medics and innovators. This year, the 170th anniversary of his birth is being celebrated that needs outlining the ground for of the most valuable achievements of the medic in the field of Surgery and Urology thorough a prism of his life path. In this paper, we will pay our attention to the beginning of his life and work path as a precondition for further professional development.

So, he was born in a noble family of Kupiansk district of Kharkiv province. By ethnic origin, he was a Ukrainian, Orthodox Cristian by religion. He received primary education and upbringing at home. In 1862, he entered the Second Kharkiv gymnasium as a “state sponsored” pupil, and in 1870, after completing the course, he was also enrolled at the state expense as a student of the Medical Faculty of the Imperial Kharkiv University. During his studies at the university, he was one of the poorest students, nevertheless, studied very hard and successfully, and as a result after graduating from the university in 1875, A. G. Podrez was awarded the title of “Physician with Distinction” and remained a fellow resident at the faculty’s surgical clinic of W. Th. Grube, his patron, who contributed a lot in A. G. Podrez’s career success.

During the Serbian-Turkish war of 1876 A. G. Podrez, a member of the volunteer Kharkiv sanitary unit, on the initiative of W. Th. Grube was sent to Serbia, where he managed the surgical unit of the military hospital for six months. During the Russo-Turkish War of 1877–1878, he spent ten months on the Caucasian Front and in Asia Minor, where he headed the officers’ unit of the hospital in Borjomi, and later worked at bandaging stations and temporary military hospitals in Asia Minor. During this period, A. G. Podrez gained considerable experience in field and military surgery and medicine in general which gave a great impetus for further professional growth [2, p. 148; 3, p. 167; 4, p. 177; 5, p. 190; 6, p. 222; 7, pp. 71–72].

Shortly after, we can see the beginning of the next period of his life starting from the defense of the doctoral thesis in 1879, when the scientist not only continued gathering medical experience in Ukraine and abroad, but also started implementation of his own professional ideas that led him to the world glory and fame. Also, he founded his own successful medical business [1, p. 211–212]. Every achievement is based on previous ones, and here we can see a result of hard work in early years.

We can draw a conclusion that A. G. Podrez was a person who “made himself” by hard work in very adverse for personal development and education conditions. However, with the large-scale guiding by his patron W. Th. Grube, he achieved during his short life much more than the majority of people who lived in much better conditions. And this is a positive example for young medics-to-be who start their professional development in hard conditions now. Such an example must be used in medical students’ upbringing, since A. G. Podrez’s life experience is topical even when we are speaking about 170th anniversary.

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