CONTRIBUTION OF M. S. BOKARIUS TO THE FORMATION OF

DOMESTIC FORENSIC MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

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Дана публікація присвячена участі відомого вченого судового медика Миколи Сергійовича Бокаріуса у створенні вітчизняної системи інституцій судової медицини. У статті досліджено внесок М. С. Бокаріуса у формування і розвиток закладів судово-медичної експертизи в Україні у першій половині XX ст. Організація системи установ судової медицини в Україні почалася у 1919 р. зі створення відділу медичної експертизи при Народному комісаріаті охорони здоров’я УРСР. У 1923 р. було створено головну судово-медичну інспектуру, яку очолив М. С. Бокаріус. В губерніях були засновані посади судово-медичних інспекторів.

Medicolegists - outstanding scholars and practitioners made significant contribution to the history of the formation and development of forensics and criminology. However, the medicolegist and criminologist, Emeritus Professor M. S. Bokarius occupies a special place in the development of forensics and criminology. The contribution of M. S. Bokarius to the development of forensic institutions in Ukraine in the first half of the twentieth century was enormous. The history of the formation of Ukrainian forensic medical institutions began at the beginning of the 20th century [4; p. 8].

Until 1917 in the Russian Empire forensic medical examinations were carried out at medical departments of provincial boards, departments of forensic medicine of universities. Medical certificates were composed by medical and police officials at hospitals. Chemical, bacteriological laboratories of universities and medical institutions were used if necessary [5; p. 311].

At the beginning of the 20th century cabinets of expertise appeared in the judicial system. The tasks of the latter included participation in a forensic examination. Due to the results of those examinations hair, fecal matter, blood and other biological objects were studied at the chemical departments of the cabinets. In 1913 M. S. Bokarius founded the Institute of Forensic Medicine (on the basis of Kharkiv University), where dissections and forensic medical examinations were held [1; p. 8].

The formation of the domestic forensic medical examination began in 1920s. The formation of the forensic medical examination was connected with organization of the department of the forensic medical examination. M. S. Bokarius was appointed to be the head of the latter. The department of the forensic medical examination was a part of the People’s Comissariat of Healthcare of the USSR. There were no medical examiners. After the formation of the department of the forensic medical examination the posts of provincial forensic inspector and regional medical examiner were introduced. In 1922 the department of the forensic medical examination was abolished, instead of it the forensic medical board at the medical department was created. Therefore M. S. Bokarius quit the job at the People’s Comissariat of Healthcare of the USSR. In 1923 the Main forensic medical inspectorship was formed. At first it was attached to the organizational department and later it went under the direct control of the people’s commissary. M. S. Bokarius became the head of the Main forensic medical inspectorship. The reattachment of the all healthcare bodies in the USSR had positive impact on the development of forensic medicine. It gave opportunity to create a unified structure, strongly associated with healthcare bodies in a short while [3; p.87].

The establishment of forensic medical expertise in the healthcare system determined its further successful development. In 1923 80 forensic medical examiners worked in the system of forensic medical inspectorship [4; p. 530].

In 1921 forensic medical laboratories were created at some provincial healthcare administrations. M. S. Bokarius organized such laboratory in Kharkiv. He remained the head of it till 1925. According to the regulations about laboratories, their employees carried out chemical and microscopic investigations, using biological methods of expertise. New institutions had connections with departments of forensic medicine, where the most qualified specialists were concentrated. Scientific and practical activity of the departments of forensic medicine helped to attract medical examiners to participation in scientific research work [5; p. 315].

At the same time M. S. Bokarius created Kharkiv cabinet of expertise, which began to work on November, 1 1923. Thus conditions for the development of the domestic system of the institutions of forensic medical examination were created [].

The peculiarity of the organization of forensic medical expertise in Ukraine lied in the fact that forensic medical investigations were held at cabinets of the scientific forensic expertise in Kyiv, Odesa and Kharkiv and since 1927 sections of biological researches were opened there. The stated expert institutions were accountable to People's Commissariat of Justice [3; p. 90].

M. S. Bokarius teaches forensic medical examination to physicians, which came to him from different Ukrainian cities. In 1925 he organized six-week courses, where 13 physicians studied and improved their knowledge [1; p. 12].

Six-week courses for those physicians, who performed medicolegal investigations. Medical examiners from Kryvyi Rih, Katerynoslav, Nizhyn, Berdychev, Uman, Pervomaisk, Shepetivka finished the first courses. Special dissecting kits were designed under the head of M. S. Bokarius and sent to medical examiners in the provinces [4; p. 530].

In 1925 Kharkiv cabinet of expertise was reorganized into the institute.

M. S. Bokarius headed Scientific and Technical Department of Kharkiv criminal investigation department. At the same time he became a permanent advisor or the militia and criminal investigation headquarters of the Commissariat of domestic affairs, where he worked till 1926 [5; p. 303].

During 1918–1919 a range of official instructions, which regulated the work of medical examiners were published. The main state forensic medical inspector of the USSR M. S. Bokarius took part in the working out of the Rules for Carrying out the Medicolegal Investigation of Corpses in 1923. The same year he worked out The Rules for Classification of Body Injuries. In 1924 the People’s Comissariat of Healthcare of the USSR edited The rules on the forensic examination of corpses, which were obligatory for all physicians, who performed forensic medical examination; the Rules about the segregation of the activity of cabinets of scientific forensic medical expertise, forensic chemical laboratories, attached to provincial healthcare departments and register offices attached to Criminal Investigations Agencies. According to this document: 1) All objects of investigation by photography, microphotography and dactyloscopy with the purpose of identification of a person and crime instruments; 2)Objects of forensic medical (microscopic or microchemical) expertise (blood or sperm spots); 3) Hair, bones and other parts of the corpse were sent to cabinets of expertise; the Rules about the procedure of sending corpses to forensic medical chambers for dissection; the Rules about forensic dissection and compilation of protocols of these dissections; the Rules about the procedure of sending different objects for investigation; The circular, which made dissection of corpses obligatory (only corpses for forensic medical investigation) before burying. Before the medical certification was given only on the basis of external inspection; The circular about the immediate interrogation of the victim directly on arriving to hospital [5; p. 315].

In 1925 M. S. Bokarius organized the first Ukrainian forensic medical Congress. 16 medical examiners from different Ukrainian cities attended it [2; p. 10].

The question of the transfer of functions of forensic medical examination to the subordination of the People's Commissariat of Justice USSR was considered at the First Ukrainian Forensic Medical Congress. In addition to representatives of the court, the prosecutor's office and the investigation, employees of the criminal investigation, police, health departments, psychiatrists and forensic chemists, representatives of the Department of Forensic Medicine of Kharkiv Medical Institute were present at the event. Attention was focused on the issue of the transfer of forensic doctors to the state of regional courts, that is, in the subordination of the People's Commissariat of Justice. At this congress, M. S Bokarius spoke with a rather resonant report "On the organization and formation of forensic medicine in the USSR," which also raised the issue of the planned reorganization of forensic medicine in the country. It was decided to create a subdivision at the department of the judicial system of the People's Commissariat of Justice. Management of the bodies of scientific and judicial expertise, as well as a draft regulation on forensic medical institutions of the Ukrainian SSR. Despite the positive decision of the congress on the issue of subordination of forensic doctors to the People's Commissariat of Justice, the government did not approve the relevant administrative documents. Forensic experts remained under the authority of the People's Commissariat of Healthcare [5; p. 307].

The work of M. S Bokarius in the field of the formation of the domestic system of the institutions of forensic medical examination became invaluable heritage of his fruitful scientific activity. He contributed to the development of forensic medicine and criminalistics, provided invaluable assistance to the law enforcement bodies in solving crimes against life and health of the individual.

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