

V.P. BOBIN IS THE FOUNDER OF PHYSICIANS' DYNASTY

In the 19th–at the beginning of the 20th centuries Kharkiv Medical School was formed in Kharkiv. It included prominent luminaries of medical field: L.L. Hirshman, V.F. Hrube, I.K. Zarubin, I.M. Obolenskyi, V.V. Favre and others, they did a lot for reformation of medicine and honestly fulfilled their professional and public duty with their daily selfless work. Among them, the Bobin generation stands out. This family for many years continues the tradition of its first doctor Volodymyr Pavlovych Bobin who was a physician, health care organizer, sincere and noble person.

In the family archive, there are documents about a Cossack nicknamed Bob (fat), who lived in Zaporizhzhia. Some of his descendants served during the reign of Catherine II. Ivan Yakovych Bobin, lived in Aloshna settlement of Lebedyn district, Kharkiv huberniya. Among his children there was Pavlo Ivanovych Bobin, who graduated from Kyiv Theological Academy with a master's degree in theology. He taught rhetoric in Kyiv [1, p. 42]. Later, his family moved to Pereyaslav...

Volodymyr Pavlovych Bobin was born on March 28, 1858 in Chernihiv huberniya, in the family of a city judge. Later, the family moved and settled in picturesque Kharkiv.

Intelligent pupil Volodymyr received his secondary education at the 3rd Kharkiv Gymnasium. During his studies, Volodymyr Bobin attracted the attention of students and teachers with an unexpected act. After his father's death, he received a scholarship. But he declared that he had given lessons and earned money for living, so he refused the scholarship and asked to give it to one of the poorest students. Such a gesture seemed like posturing to the surrounding people, but the subsequent life of Volodymyr Pavlovych proved his sincerity.

After graduation, the inquisitive young man entered the Imperial Kharkiv University at the Faculty of Medicine. Famous professors V.F. Grube, V.P. Krylov, I.M. Obolenskyi, L.L. Hirshman, O.H. Kuznetsov and others were his teachers. In 1881, after graduation from medical faculty, V.P. Bobin obtained the title of district doctor, and at the beginning of 1882, according to the proposal of Professor I.M. Obolensky, was elected to the position of assistant at the Department of General Pathology. In 1885, V.P. Bobin asked for his resignation [2, p. 272]. He was not satisfied with the detached from life scientific work at that time. Volodymyr Pavlovych was active by his nature, so he decided to test himself in practice and in November 1884 he became the managing physician of the hospital of the Kharkiv Medical Society (KhMS) located in Pushkinska street, 14. He had been managed by this hospital for more than 40 years.

In the mid.-to late 19th century public activity of naturalists and doctors on the territory of Russian Empire increased markedly. If at the beginning of the 19th century 10 medical societies operated (3 of them in Ukraine: in Kherson, Odessa and Kyiv), and from 1858 to 1968, 29 new ones appeared [4, p. 127].

The initiator of the union of the medical forces of the Kharkiv region was V.F. Hrube, a well-known professor and director of the surgical clinic of the Imperial Kharkiv University, who in September 1860, having gathered the doctors of Kharkiv, offered them to found a society. Immediately, a meeting of the initiative group was held, at which three participants were elected, who were authorized to draw up the statute (approved on March 23, 1861). On May 27, the first meeting of KhMS was held. The first chairman of the society was the well-known Czech scientist of Kharkiv University D.F. Lyambl. In 1869, V.F. Hrube was elected as a head of KhMS, and headed it for two decades. Over time, the society transformed into a large public organization, which in 1913 united almost 500 highly qualified specialists from various fields of medicine [5, p. 422].

Medical society began its activities with a small number of members, and its first meetings were held in the premises of the medical faculty of Kharkiv University. The society had a large network of medical, preventive and educational institutions.

Members of Kharkiv Medical Society were honorary doctors, masters and pharmacists who sought to work for the benefit of their people and country. Members of this society were the firsts to apply foreign medical innovations in practice actively.

Soon, on January 12, 1863, a free hospital for sick people was opened. The second chairman of Kharkiv Medical Society (from 1885 to 1925) was Volodymyr Pavlovych Bobin.

Volodymyr Pavlovich Bobin was one of the active figures of medical society of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, working as a hospital manager for dozens of years. In 1872, Kharkiv Medical Society received 50,000 rubles of inheritance from D.A. Zakharzhevsky for the construction of a 10-bed hospital. For 15,000 rubles, a place and a building in Pushkinska Street, 14, were purchased for the construction of the KhMS hospital, in which its hospital was opened. The capital of 34,000 thousand rubles was placed at 7% per annum in the City Bank. The number of patients who visited the hospital was significant, and already in 1878 the City Duma allocated 6,000 rubles for the repair and reconstruction of the hospital.

Powerful development of KhMS hospital was associated with V.P. Bobin. Kharkiv Medical Society was not only a scientific but also a business enterprise with skillful management that brought solid profits. This enterprise was created by ordinary doctors, hardened by life and endowed with considerable energy [5].

In 1884, Volodymyr Pavlovych was elected the managing physician of free hospital and Hospital of KhMS. V.P. Bobin tried to unite these hospitals with the aim of creation what can be tentatively called an institution of polyclinic and inpatient care for the population.

This hospital served the population not only of Kharkiv and the province, but also of virtually the entire Left Bank of Ukraine and the neighboring provinces of Russia, among the patients were mostly the poorest strata of the population. At the hospital, on V.P. Bobin's initiative 24-hour emergency aid point was organized.

On September 22, 1885, the institution with 6 beds was opened after a solemn service.

V.P. Bobin was the permanent duty officer of this hospital and the managing physician, whose apartment was attached to the hospital. Every year, the number of patients who applied for medical aid to the hospital grew. So, in 1885, there were 20 patients in the hospital, in 1890 – 16, in 1905 – 120, in 1910 – 160 patients. In 25 years (1885–1910), 2,865 patients and 494 women in labour were treated. On average, during this time, 11,000 – 13,000 patients were treated annually.

The KhMS hospital had a therapeutic and surgical inpatient unit headed by Professor B. G. Przhevalsky, as well as several maternity beds. The hospital was visited mainly by seriously ill patients with injuries and wounds, as well as with diseases of the digestive organs, breathing, blood circulation, and infectious diseases. In addition to medical work, doctors organized and conducted scientific conferences, which involved a wide range of not only practicing doctors, but also clinical professors of Kharkiv University.

Volodymyr Pavlovych contributed to solving the economic problems of the KhMS, which made it possible to develop the research potential of the society, to educate scientists in the medical field. Collective efforts of members of this society in the 1880s of the 19th century were directed to the creation of institutions to combat dangerous mass diseases. A significant contribution was the participation of V.P. Bobin at the opening of the Pasteur Institute and Bacteriological Station in Kharkiv in 1887. In 1892, at the suggestion of V.P. Bobin, a branch of the St. Petersburg Mutual Aid Society was opened. Active philanthropic work was carried out with his participation. V.P. Bobin headed the Board of Trustees of the city's Oleksandrivska hospital, organized the opening of a shelter for terminally ill patients named after doctor V.A. Frankovskii. Volodymyr Pavlovych worked there as a physician, and was elected as a representative of this institution by the speaker of Kharkiv City Duma. A huge merit of Kharkiv Medical Society was the opening of Women's Medical Institute in 1910, which trained almost 2,000 female doctors over the course of seven years.

In 1905, a revolution broke out in Russian Empire. During the street fighting in the city of Kharkiv, V.P. Bobin and medical staff of the hospital under his supervision provided assistance to the wounded participants of the revolutionary demonstrations. In the hospital and in the apartment, dressing material, medicines were prepared, and food was cooked for the wounded people.

On December 14, 1906, a solemn meeting of Kharkiv Medical Society was held on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of medical activity of V.P. Bobin. In the address of the jubilee on behalf of the KhMS, it was said: «As a doctor-manager of a free hospital and a hospital of the society, you with your medical experience and knowledge, with a compassionate and humane attitude, have gained wide popularity among the poorest urban population». Taking into account the highly beneficial activity of V.P. Bobin in the position of the managing physician of the hospital, he was elected an honorary member of the Medical Society.

In 1910–1912 V.P. Bobin, as the head of the construction commission of the KhMS together with the architect academician O.M. Beketov is building the «Palace of Medicine», now widely known in our country and abroad, of Kharkiv Institute of Microbiology and Immunology named after I.I. Mechnikov.

Thanks to the energetic participation of Volodymyr Pavlovych Bobin the Obstetrics and Gynecology Building of the Oleksandrivska Hospital was opened. For the construction of that hospital Kharkiv City Duma allocated 40,000 rubles for the land and 75,000 for the construction of the building. Bobin supervised the construction of the building himself, and finally, on September 17, 1913, the department accepted the first female patients.

During the First World War, the hospital was remodeled and transformed into a «lazarette for wounded and sick soldiers attached to the hospital of the medical society», and during the civil war – into a hospital for patients with typhoid and typhoid fever. After 1917–1919, the hospital was significantly expanded. As before, the outpatient clinic was headed by V.P. Bobin, and doctor Leizerman had a similar position in an inpatient one. Subsequently, in 1921, for his services to society, it was decided to give the name of Volodymyr Pavlovych Bobin to the polyclinic of the working district of the city of Kharkiv, and the hospital remained «a bed named after V.P. Bobin. In 1923, an inpatient facility was established on the basis of the hospital at the established Protozoan Institute (in Pushkinska Street, 14) for the planned scientifically based treatment of malaria (the director of which was Professor V.Ya. Rubashkin).

Volodymyr Pavlovych Bobin died on November 11, 1925 after a serious illness. After his death, the board of the KhMS wrote that the doctor «was known for his humane activities far beyond the borders of Ukraine, his name was a symbol of high honesty, conscientious attitude to medical work, attentive attitude to sick workers». Many years of selfless work of V.P. Bobin, his sensitive, attentive attitude towards people, crystal honesty, active participation in all affairs and undertakings of the medical society brought him deep respect, gratitude and love both of Kharkiv doctors and the general population. Volodymyr Pavlovych was active not only as a doctor, but also as a public figure.

He was buried in Kharkiv, at the 13th cemetery in the quarter, next to the grave of P.I. Shatilov. On the facade of the former building of the KhMS hospital - the current Kharkiv Institute of Microbiology and Immunology named after I.I. Mechnikov), where Volodymyr Pavlovych lived and worked for 43 years, there is a memorial plaque dedicated to this wonderful doctor, talented clinician, scientist, health care organizer and public figure.

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