

EDITORIAL

The story of a journal – The 120th anniversary of the Romanian Journal of Military Medicine

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The Military Medicine Magazine, later became the Romanian Journal of Military Medicine (RJMM)... well, I assure you that it did not come out of thin air!

It appeared on September 15, 1897, 120 years ago, on the initiative of military medical professionals.

I think few of us know that on January 12, 1897, Army Corps General Professor Dr. Athanase Demosthen was elected correspondent member of the Medical Academy of Paris.

Those who celebrated him for success, mostly his students and contemporaries, doctors, pharmacists and veterinarians (military veterinarians, the cavalry did not disappear – as a fighting weapon!) decided, according to the French example, to create a magazine with independent statute and organization, and objectives that do not go beyond our present understanding. Namely: "maintenance of scientific activity and emulation among the members of the sanitary body, establishment of the collegiality links between the sanitary officers, as well as the preservation of the scientific and moral prestige that they should enjoy in the army and in society, the culture of all scientific and technical knowledge among the members of the military health body related to the medical, pharmaceutical and veterinary profession" (*Revista Sanitară Militară, 1972, nr. 4-5, pg. 411*).

The "Steering Committee" met three months later, on

April 12, 1897, and established that under the leadership of General Prof. Dr. Athanase Demosthen – as chairman, a new magazine called "Military Sanitary Review" will be born with the previously mentioned status.

The companions of General Demosthen for this enterprise were the generals Dr. I. Șerbănescu, N. Zorileanu, the army pharmacist M. Marinescu, first class regiment physician I.M. Călinescu, second class regiment physician Iacob Potârca (a memorable name in Romanian surgery – versus Whitehead procedure!), pharmacists C. Dumitrescu-Parepa and Constantin Merișanu (whose bust guards a hospital alley).

The magazine appeared on 15 September 1897 and the photocopy presented reproduces the first cover of the Military Health Magazine (*Revista Sanitară Militară, 1972, nr. 4-5, pg. 409*).

The "Military Health Magazine" wanted to be, from the very beginning, "the depository of the work and activity of the health officers in the realm of veterinary and human medicine and military pharmacy" (*Oameni și Fapte din Istoria Medicinii Militare Românești, Gral brig (r) dr. Mircea Diaconescu, vol II, pg. 229*).

The Military Health Magazine records a great



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performance in our medical literature: it appeared in the same year as the Surgery Magazine – 1897, went through the same "trials", did not have the same audience but resisted... An absolutely remarkable fact!...



Before continuing the "story of the Magazine", I think it is worth telling you "my story – vs the Magazine".

I may be subjective, and actually I am.

The system, the organization of that time, had assigned me after graduating from the Faculty as a "trainee intern" since December 1979. I was assigned, together with my colleague, to the 2nd Medical Department, the current Clinic of Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology of the Central Military Hospital. We have been extraordinarily well received and grateful to those people.

I knew about the Magazine, I had read it "en passant", then there were no "student" magazines, I did not even dream to publish an article in a magazine with such background.

Well, those very formidable men – the "workers" from the editorial office of any long-term magazine, that is, Col. Dr. Cristea Neculescu and Mr. Nicolae Dragoi – editorial secretary – considered an absolute "insignificant" article in time – but perhaps pompously titled: "Diagnostic significance of the atrial fibrillation wave amplitude" by D. Mischianu, V. Andrei, Military Health Magazine, 1980, 1, pg 71-75, may receive the "good fortune"! It was an article that summed up what we, presented to the Students Session at the Bucharest Medical and Pharmaceutical

Institute in the April 1979 session.

I leave aside my memories and come back to the historical reality, of which nobody understands at all.

The magazine has gone through chaotic and sad moments.

It had "ups and downs," a sort of "crises" as they are told today. Most of the causes were of financial origin, which led to changes in the typographic format and the continuity of occurrence.

The first syncope is in 1903, so that between 1903-1905 the magazine no longer appears.

In April 1905, everything goes back to normal the first exchanges of journals began with other armies: Italian, English, French, German and everything went flawless until 1908. The number 2 of 1906 was a jubilee number; ten years had passed from the gorgeous initiative of 1897, the number being dedicated to "the great and mighty King Carol I".

Unfortunately after the numbers 3 and 4 of 1908, the second syncope is recorded. The Military Health Magazine ceases to appear until 1913 (*Oameni și Fapte din Istoria Medicinii Militare Românești, Gral brig (r) dr. Mircea Diaconescu, vol II, pg. 230*).

The magazine is coming back shortly. On June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated in Sarajevo, the three kings – blood cousins: Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, and King George V of The United Kingdom of Great Britain, all three good English speakers were not able to come to terms (they were grandchildren of the Queen Victoria of Great Britain), the Great War (or the First World War as it is known today) begins, our magazine has its third syncope: 1915-1919 .

With all these vicissitudes, in 1917 and 1918, in Iasi and Bacau appear "the Comptes bulletins from the Société medico-chirurgicale du russo-roumain, namely Comptes vendus des seinces from the medical reunion of II-ème armee, presenting medico-military communications with participants from Russian and French allied armies " (*Revista Sanitară Militară, 1972, nr. 4-5, pg. 412*).

There is also a fourth syncope, after the first numbers

appeared in 1919. In fact, the magazine really revived in 1928, when things were settled, the country seemed to have emerged from the crisis. It is Miron Costin's word: "There are not the times under the man, but the poor man under the times!"

In the review, there are reports of the "continuous medical education" sessions – that is the sessions of the Romanian Military Doctors' Association with the subsequent subsidiaries from all the existing Military Hospitals, homage numbers regarding the personalities of the Romanian medicine who came from or not from the same "medical strain": General dr. N. Zorileanu (dermatovenerologist), professor dr. V. Babeş (bacteriologist), professor dr. Dimitrie Gerota (surgeon, radiologist), professor dr. Al. Costiniu (ENT), etc. Articles in French and German also appear (*Revista Sanitară Militară*, 1972, nr. 4-5, pg. 413).

The fifth syncope, hopefully the last, is also the longest: 1949-1957. The times were like they were, everything was changing, and who needed the written word of the Romanian military doctors?

We publish the cover of a Magazine published in 1938 in which, in the end, lieutenant physician Dr. Eugen Mareş publishes an obituary of a generation colleague (*Oameni și Fapte din Istoria Medicinii Militare Românești, Gal brig (r) dr. Mircea Diaconescu, vol II*).



The same man, the same true Romanian military doctor who I personally met, when he was at the peak of his profession – Deputy Minister of Health in socialist Romania and at the end of his life, with a

typical Oltenian perseverance, "revives" the Military Health Magazine in 1957.

In 1972, when the magazine was celebrated for "three quarters of a century of existence in the service of the protection of the health of our soldiers", the technical box of Magazine Sanitary Military Magazine no. 4-5/ 1972, which we reproduce in the facsimile, mentions his name, along with the name of another military doctor dear to my soul – General Professor Iuliu Șuteu – editor-in-chief of the magazine at that time.



I also want to remember another name dear to me – General Lt. Academician Gheorghe Niculescu, for many years, editor-in-chief and "living spirit" that agglutinated the energies and "pencils", stimulating and promoting those who really had something to say in this field.

After 1990, fearful, as observed to another journal "Surgery", changed its name. It became the Journal of Military Medicine.



Probably the term "sanitary" was appropriate in the beginning, the term "medicine" is common to all military doctors because we all come from the same strain – the School of Medicine created by Carol Davila, who arrived on Romanian soil as a French civilian and became a Romanian general and physician!



He has escaped, in this way, of a "complex".

In time there have been other Romanian medico-military publications.



The Romanian Journal of Military Medicine wishes to bring up-to-date information to the servants of this noble profession, and hopes that the puzzling of the information on the internet, which can make anyone

However, the Romanian Journal of Military Medicine (RJMM) remains unique and emblematic after five major "syncope", having in its portfolio "a valuable scientific and informational forum not only for military doctors but for all Romanian medicine" (*Oameni și Fapte din Istoria Medicinii Militare Românești, Gral brig (r) dr. Mircea Diaconescu, vol II, pg. 232*).



The magazine had the power, and those who were close to it knew how to do it, to reborn always like the Phoenix bird.

120 years after the first appearance, the Romanian Journal of Military Medicine remains a magazine that has its own program, unaltered by the passing of the ages, even when the inter-war or post-war political factor implied perhaps another orientation.

out of the question, is presented on-line or printed (I confess that I deeply dislike these English barbarisms!) after they have been read and corrected (not censored!) by a true scholar in the field.

I am absolutely convinced that all Romanian, military or civilian medical officers, descendants of our common ancestor – General Professor Dr. Carol Davila – will adhere to this profession of faith and will continue as long as it is needed!

Happy Birthday Journal of Military Medicine!

Happy Birthday dear readers!