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## The Historical Outline of Vilnius Pathological Anatomy in the First Half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

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The first post mortem examination was performed in Vilnius by a priest Stefan Bisio in 1770. At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Jakub Briotet, a surgeon and anatomist, founded a modest anatomical (surgery) study. In 1804, Jan Piotr Frank and his son Józef arrived to Vilnius and became professors of the University. Jan Piotr Frank took charge of the University Teaching Hospital and Józef of the Chair of Pathology. When, in 1805, Józef Frank took charge, after his father, of the University Hospital, he founded the first anatomopathological examination room there. The samples were obtained mainly from post mortem studies - autopsies. Most of the samples kept in spirit in the Frank's room were eaten by the starving French soldiers during the retreat of Napoleon's army. Getting dead bodies for the Universities was easy thanks to Tsar's decrees from the years 1793 - 1809 which ordered to open dead bodies and collect monsters. Moreover, a permission to transfer dead bodies from military hospitals to the University was issued in 1810. These decrees did not stop the cases of students digging out dead bodies from the graves, which still happened in 1810 and 1817. Józef Frank acknowledged great role of post mortem in medicine teaching. He wrote: *an author describing a disease with lethal outcome, who does not mention pathological changes found through autopsy is backward*. Beside Frank's study, there was still a study founded by Briotet at the Vilnius University, at the Chair of Anatomy. In 1808, Tsar Alexander I designed ruins of Spaska Orthodox Church for an anatomic theater. After seven year redecoration works, it was opened. Beside the theater, dissection room and Veterinary Institute, the building included zoological, veterinary and anatomical museum. The growing anatomical museum had, in 1841, 2895 preparations including 1239 anatomopathological preparations. After closing down Vilnius University and opening Medical and Surgery Academy, pathological anatomy classes were introduced for the 5<sup>th</sup> year students in 1834. The first lecturer of pathological anatomy, as an individual subject, was Ludwik Siewruk. He started the classes in 1840 when he took charge of the Chair of Anatomy at the Moscow University. Jan Leonow continued the classes till the closing down of Medical and Surgery Academy by the tsar in 1842. The classes performed by Siewruk and Leonow were limited to lectures. Practical knowledge, autopsies were a part of pathology classes and specific therapy (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years of studies).

**After the Academy had been closed down, all the exhibits of the Vilnius anatomical museum, including anatomopathological preparations were moved to the anatomical museum of Kiev University. Few of them remained in the Vilnius Medical Society.**

The beginnings of pathological anatomy as a separate medical subject are connected with Vilnius University in the former area of the Republic of Both Nations (Poland and Lithuania). The first autopsy in Vilnius was performed by the priest Stefan Bisio (1720 - after 1787) in 1770 [1, 11, 27]. About 1777, Jakub Briotet (1746 - 1819), a surgeon and anatomist, who became a dissection man and anatomy demonstrator, and from 1787 a professor of surgery, opened a modest anatomy room, which was started with a collection of monsters (monstra) given to Collegium Medicum of Lithuanian Main School by professor Jan Emanuel Gilibert (1741 - 1812). In preparing anatomical preparations, Briotet was assisted not only by his students but also by his wife and children. However, till the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century, his room had only few preparations, including a few skeletons, muscle preparations and 33 normal fetuses and some with congenital defects from the collection of Gilibert. They were all placed in one small room in the, so called, Old Collegium Medicum, where the lectures on normal anatomy were held. The room had a very gloomy atmosphere. For the lack of cabinets, bones were scattered everywhere, the preparations were located in jars and pots standing one over another [27]. Since 1787, anatomy lectures in Vilnius were held by professor Jan Lobenwein (1758 - 1820), who, for the first 16 years, was preparing the anatomical preparations on his own.

In 1804, Jan Piotr Frank (1745 - 1821) and his son Józef (1771 - 1842) arrived at Vilnius and became professors of the university. Jan Piotr Frank became the head of the Teaching Hospital, and Józef Frank, the head of the Chair of Pathology (Fig. 1). In November 1804, he started teaching students, which he wrote in his "Diary" about: *Few days after my father, I also started a course with a dissertation: "De meliori pathologiam tradendi modo". In this lecture, I placed the main stressed on a talk at the patient's bedside and on a*



Fig. 1. Józef Frank (1771 - 1842) and his monument in Vilnius.

*necessity to know pathological anatomy...*[18]. Moreover, he also added: *an author describing a disease with lethal outcome, who does not mention pathological changes found through autopsy is backward* [4]. This is the oldest information confirming the understanding of pathological anatomy and autopsies. The first lecture of the young professor was an event attended not only by students and professors, but also by church and secular authorities. After that, a delegation with the Dean went to Frank's apartment and congratulated him [28].

When, in 1805, Józef Frank became the head of Teaching Hospital after his father, he opened there in 1806 the first anatomopathological exhibition room, which functioned till he left Vilnius. Since Frank was the head of Teaching Hospital he dealt with internal diseases, therefore the preparations to the "surgery" were obtained from the postmortem examinations - autopsies. *Sometimes I admitted the incurably ill deliberately in order to have opportunity to make an autopsy of the dead and enrich the pathological exhibition room. In those cases, I avoided unnecessary discussion and foretold the unfavorable end of the disease. The conclusion is that the teaching hospital should not aim at having the smallest number of death cases, since such a hospital is not good for those who want to study* [18] - he wrote after becoming the Head of the University Teaching Hospital. What a big importance Józef Frank attached to autopsies is shown in his letter from 1815 to his father, where he complained: *My Teaching Hospital is doing too well, therefore*

*the patients don't die and I am devoid of this powerful means of teaching, namely opening dead bodies* [19]. Władysław Zahorski wrote: *Frank assigned great importance to pathological anatomy and required from his students to know it thoroughly. Therefore, each person who died in the Teaching Hospital underwent autopsy in the presence of the professor and the students and the postmortem protocol was a subject of the lecture* [28]. In the Józef Frank's paper "Opisanie tumoru iaiecznika lewego" ("Description of the left ovary tumour") we learn about a 64-year patient, treated in November 1815: *Losing all the hope to save the patient, who was close to death, having done everything I could to relieve the most painful sufferings I concentrated mainly on how to find an opportunity to open the dead body, especially as I had seen a similar swelling in Countess Rombeck, who died of the hydrops preceded by limb paralysis and we were not allowed to open her body. Also in this case, we had great obstacles in the way of opening the body. However, one of my eager pupils managed to overcome them and we opened the stomach and took out the tumour. Since we did secretly and very hastily, at night in a dark place, I couldn't get much information about the state of viscera and other parts adjacent to the tumour (...). The tumour was five pounds and six ounces of weight, (...). When we cut it out and examined thoroughly together with dr Nizskowski, we found out that it was nothing else than the left ovary (...). I also collected similar tumours in the pathological exhibition room of the University* [7]. Two months earlier Jan Fryderyk Nizskowski

made: *a dissection of a dead body, which I opened in the presence of my honorable colleague Józef Frank* [15]. This time, 34-year old woman died of "abdominal hydrops". The description of the changes in the abdominal inner organs was: *The abdominal void was filled with a reddish fluid. False membranes floating over the intestines. Abdominal membranes touched by infernal flame. The intestines of dark red colour, inflamed and gangrene spots showing in numerous sites. The outer liver coat considerably thickened and unstuck in the sites of fluid concentration. The right ovary of a size of a new-born woodpecker; in its upper part opened due to rotten membranes. Its void filled with ichor with spongy exuberances* [15]. Some years later, Adamowicz recalled: *Dr Nizkowski helped sometimes Frank to open bodies of the people who died of heart diseases and then suddenly died of the cardiac rupture himself* [1]. Frank had sometimes problems with autopsies. Presenting a case of a sudden death, he wrote: *I obtained a permission to perform autopsy after many difficulties, Mr Kiersnowski in the presence of the invited dr Pelikan and dr Meyer performed the dissection* [6]. However, he added: *we were not allowed to open the skull and the abdominal void* [6]. The above mentioned Antoni Kiersnowski held a function of a dissector at the Chair of Anatomy of Vilnius University in 1814 - 1821 [8]. Commenting on a case of another death, dr Maciej Barankiewicz noted down: *for several reasons, despite great heat, only on the third day after death, in the evening at the cemetery, without any light, we were allowed to open the body with the greatest modesty due to the presence of a few sisters of mercy* (the death was a nun - from the author) [2]. The cases of refusing permissions to autopsies of the dead patients treated formerly at the teaching Hospital were the reasons for digging dead bodies out of their graves by students, which happened still in 1817. Professors Jan Lobenwein and Józef Frank were defending their students for eagerness to *examine death causes after complicated or unknown diseases* [1].

Obtaining dead bodies for the University was fairly easy since the Tsar's decree from 19 Jan., 1793, (then repeated 13 Oct., 1797, and next in 1808 and 29 Dec., 1809) ordered to "open dead bodies and collect monsters" [1, 25]. However, there were not enough bodies to hold normal anatomy classes because the University collected them only from one hospital and Teaching Hospitals. In 1810, this situation led to a night "battle" among students and Vilnius butchers. Jędrzej Śniadecki came to their defense saying that: *Vilnius butchers were the attacking party and that the priest, greedy for funerals, belonged to the coalition against anatomy* [1]. Only after that event, still in 1810, a permission to donate bodies from military hospitals to the University was issued.

Organ pathologies, exhibited at the Frank's exhibition room were obtained mainly from autopsies. The examinations were performed by the doctors who had been treating

a patient. The casuistic cases were often described in the Vilnius medical magazines: "Acta Instituti Clinici Caesareae Universitatis Vilnensis" (1808 - 1812), "Pamiętniki Towarzystwa Lekarskiego Wileńskiego" ("Diaries of Vilnius Medical Society", 1818 - 1821), "Dziennik Medycyny, Chirurgii i Farmacyi" ("Medicine, Surgery and Pharmacy Daily", 1822 - 1830) and "Collectanea Medico-Chirurgica" (1838) [16]. Autopsies were also performed by doctors working away from the University. Ignacy Woynicz, from military hospital, presented several preparations at the meetings of Vilnius medical Society in the years 1816 - 1817. All but one were obtained through autopsies. An example: *A soldier, 28 years, for few months treated for tuberculosis of lungs, died 20 March, 1817 with all the symptoms of suffocation. Having opened his body together with Mr Rosset we found totally healthy lungs, heart sack filled with watery liquid, the heart of slightly bigger size than in normal condition. However, our attention was drawn by the spleen, instead of which we found a tumour of a goose egg size, hardly similar to a spleen; filled with a bony matter inside, when touched felt strangely hard and issued squeaking noise* [26]. The spleen preparation, after presentation at the Vilnius Medical Society meeting was placed in the anatomopathological exhibition room of Frank's Teaching Hospital. Then it was moved to the University Museum of Anatomy with the number 1709 (*Lien atrophicus et osseus ponderis drachmarum 6, duos pollices longus, unum vero latus et crassus, extus inequalis, intus spongiosus*) [14]. Another patient of dr Woynicz was a middle aged officer: *several time infected with venereal disease (...). On 30 March (1817 - from the author) he was cut off in his poor existence. After opening his body, I found the bead column, from the second to the sixth back bead, and also the dorsal rib ends on the side totally decayed; interosseous cartilages and nerves from the bead medulla were intact, which the honorable audience can observe as being presented* [26]. After the suicide of a soldier: *I undertook the opening of the skull together with Mr Rosset. Blood vessels of cerebral membranes were strongly distended. Cutting cerebral matter by strata from the top down, we found a tumour of a walnut size consisting of yellowish substance, quite hard and easy to detach from the brain. In the left hemisphere we found other two similar tumours, however, a bit smaller; the fourth one in the part of cerebellum called the tree of life. All this tumours when soaked in spirit decreased a little in size* [26].

In the above mentioned descriptions there is no detailed information on the autopsy technique. We can guess that in those strange conditions, the sections were performed in situ, i.e. without taking out all the organs from a corpse. This technique was described in details in the 40s of 19<sup>th</sup> century in so called Rokitansky's young Vienna school. However, the mentioned above method of brain section has been used till now, mainly during examination of a brains fixed in formalin.

How strong were the customs in University Teaching Hospital introduced by Józef Frank, also referring to managing the death, can be proved by a fragment of Jędrzej Śniadecki's "Introduction" to the III volume of "Dziennik Medycyny, Chirurgii i Farmacyi" ("Medicine, Surgery and Pharmacy Daily"), from 1830, issued by Emperor's Medical Society in Vilnius in the 20s. Józef Frank had been away from Vilnius for 7 years and Śniadecki wrote: *if a patient from the Teaching Hospital dies, his body is opened in the presence of the professor and pupils, a record of the section is attached to the disease record. Sometimes, the patients who are destined to die are admitted but the course of their illness is worth consideration or its site or origin are doubtful and therefore an autopsy seems to be very important* [21].

Most of the collected from 1806 and kept in spirit exhibits from the Frank's exhibition room were eaten by starving French soldiers during the retreat of the Napoleon's Army. Frank himself described the events of the year 1812 in Vilnius in his "Diaries": *I will spare my readers from terrible scenes that happened at the entry of the remnants of the Napoleon's Army to Vilnius (...). A number of French soldiers took shelter in the rooms of my Teaching Hospital where a military hospital was organized at that time. When they noticed that the door to one room was closed they thought that there was food in there. They broke into the room where anatomopathological room/laboratory had been moved. The poor men devoured all the preparations and drank all the spirit* [19]. Still many years later, in the first Vilnius guide book, the events were presented as follows: *The professor of practical medicine at the Vilnius University, Józef Frank (...) set up a pathological room at the Teaching Hospital. In the year 1812 the collection of preparations was quite big, most preparations were emerged in spirit and placed in glass jars. In 1812, the teaching hospital was turned by French doctors into military hospital. At the beginning, enlightened French doctors did not touch the room with pathological preparations. But after the memorable defeat of French army, the hospital was not supplied with food for three days before their retreat and for another three days after the Russian entry (...). Therefore the starving convalescents and the hospital staff devoured all the pathological preparations, which were softer, and greedily drank the spirit* [9]. The Frank's anatomopathological exhibition room was brought back to life after the catastrophe of 1812. Again, as before 1812, the meetings of Vilnius Medical Society were held in it and it became the central point for mutual exchange of observations and presentation of pathological preparations [1]. Adamowicz writing "Short outline of the beginning and progress of anatomy in Poland and Lithuania" celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Emperor's Vilnius Medical Society, after detailed description of 20 pathological cases presented at the meetings, wrote: *The preparations were placed at once in a separate small collec-*

*tion at the Teaching Hospital; however (...) there was another pathological room/laboratory, founded by Józef Frank, next to the auditorium, where the society gathered, primarily founded in the former house of Duke Radziwiłł, then called teaching hospital. Frank along with taking charge of the Teaching Hospital after his father, in 1806, started collecting more important anatomical preparations, with the help of his students and university dissectors. However, his collection was partially damaged by the starving French soldiers, it grew again up to 125 pieces, which before Frank's leave was joined to great collection of physiological, monster and surgical preparations from the operating theatre* [1]. The anatomopathological preparations collected by Frank were also demonstrated at the lectures, which he had mentioned at the beginning of his work in Vilnius: *My lectures were of no lesser popularity, especially pathological demonstrations at the Sisters of Mercy Hospital* [18].

Apart from Frank's room there still existed a room founded by Briotet at the Chair of Anatomy of Vilnius University. Due to poor conditions, emperor Alexander, in 1808 appointed the ruins of Spask Orthodox Church for museums, lecture halls and anatomical theatre. After seven-year reconstruction, the building designed by professor Michał Szulc was opened 13 Oct., 1815. The building included chairs of anatomy and veterinary and comparative anatomy [11]. On the first floor, there were two big oval lecture halls, separate one for anatomy and another for veterinary, lighted with four windows. Each hall included 20 benches in five rows and a blackboard and "a plinth with two steps". Each lecture hall had three small "dissection" rooms behind them. On the second floor there were two rooms with anatomical collections, zoological cabinet and four extra rooms, where zootomic preparations and glass were stored. Apart from the main building, the complex also included two floor building with a stable; on the first floor there was a room for bone maceration, on the second floor a flat for caretakers and in the attic a place for bone whitening. Additionally, a seven-room apartment was made in a former smaller metropolitan palace with a smithy, storerooms, cellar and a coachroom in the basement. The bigger metropolitan palace was changed in to veterinary teaching hospital with a pharmacy and flats for students and veterinary lecturers. In the middle of the complex there was an old tower with an apartment for the veterinary and comparative anatomy professor Ludwik Bojanus (1776 - 1827). The increasing collection, especially under the charge of Adam Bielkiewicz (1798 - 1840), in 1825 consisted of 682 preparations, and in 1841 of 2895 preparations, including 1239 anatomopathological preparations [11, 20]. The anatomopathological part of the museum occupied one of the rooms. All the time, the collection was increasing mainly thanks to anatomists. Besides, anatomopathological preparations were supplied by surgery professors: Jakub Briotet and Jan Fryderyk Niszkowski (1774 -

1816), and in the following years Waclaw Pelikan (1790 - 1873), Konstanty Porcyanko (1793 - 1841), Seweryn Gałęzowski (1801 - 1878) and Józef Korzeniewski (1806 - 1870). Additionally, Józef Frank bought in Vienna 25 preparations of the injected capillary vessels and the first microscope. Before he left Vilnius he donated the collections from the anatomopathological exhibition room to the museum. This is how the preparations presented at the meetings of the Vilnius Medical Society, also by dr Ignacy Woynicz and Otton Rosset from the military hospital, were entered into the museum catalogue [1, 27]. In 1840 the collection was "enriched" by a liver of the deceased professor Adam Bielkiewicz (preparation no. 1640: *Cyrrhosis (Laennecii) seu Granulation hepatis (Cruveilhieri) cum hypertrophia medullaris, atrophia vero corticalis substantiae, ita tamen, ut omne viscus sit imminutum volumine. Ex Prof. Anatomiae Bielkiewicz 42 annorum nato, gravissima inani tussi, dyspnoea, appetitu perverso et ictero detento, adipe copioso totius corporis non granuloso obveniente*) [14].

After closing by the Emperor's decree from 1 May, 1832 the Vilnius University and opening the Medical and Surgery Academy, pathological anatomy was considered to be a separate subject from 1834 [1]. It was the second case, next to Strasburg University, in Europe. It was professor of surgery Seweryn Gałęzowski, who was on a scholarship in the years 1828 - 1830 in the teaching hospitals in Berlin, Paris and London, and then from 1831 lived abroad who made pathological anatomy a separate subject. He had observed the importance of pathological anatomy and therefore writing to his colleagues and friends in Vilnius he kept on underlying the necessity of founding a new Chair of Academy [25]. Another help was from a great interest in anatomopathological department in the museum of normal anatomy. The best proof of great interest in pathological anatomy can be thirty Ph.D. thesis defended first in the years 1811 - 1842 at the University, and then at the Medical and Surgery Academy [1, 3, 20]. The first dissertation by Onufry Niechwiedowicz (*Observatio medica de variori linguae vitio organico, Vilnius 1811*). The last one was defended by Hieronim Jawłowski, in the year when academy was closed down (*De carcinomate intestini recti, Vilnius 1842*). According to the tradition all dissertations were written in Latin. The first lecturer of pathological anatomy in Vilnius was Ludwik Siewruk (Siewrók) (1806 - 1853), an assistant professor of Medical and Surgery Academy [5, 10, 23]. His former student Adam Bućkiewicz (born 1819, degree 1836) wrote about him: *Indeed, Siewruk did not have relative education in pathological anatomy, however, he was a good dissector of descriptive anatomy. There was no one he could learn pathological anatomy from. Therefore, he could not get his listeners interested, since he had little to give* [24]. Maciej Łowicki (born 1815, degree 1839), a student younger than Bućkiewicz, gave different opinion on Ludwik Siewruk

**TABLE 1**

Pathological anatomy lecture schedule at the Medical and Surgery Academy

Academic year Lecture language Lecturer	Year of study	Dates of lectures
1834/1835 Latin Ludwik Siewruk	V	September-December Tuesday, Thursday 14.30-16.00
1836/1837 Latin Ludwik Siewruk		September-December Tuesday, Saturday 14.00-15.30
1839/1840 Latin Ludwik Siewruk		September-December Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11.00-12.00

as an anatomopathologist: *Standing in for Bielkiewicz, Siewruk lectured anatomy well; he also gave quite good lectures on his subject, pathological anatomy* [3]. Józef Bieliński, after number of years wrote about Siewruk: *A new skill definitely was hard for the known for his technique anatomist; however, well matched manuals, the best available then, contributed to the class similar to the best then medical schools. No doubt, if the Chair of anatomy lasted longer in Vilnius, Siewruk either would write an original work or would learn from the best then foreign works, as he did in Moscow* [3]. He prepared his lectures for the fifth year students, held in Latin till 1840, according to works of Otto and Meckel [13, 17]. He gave lectures on pathological anatomy for the first four months of each academic year, i.e. from September to December [3] (Table 1). In 1838 he got his Ph.D. on the basis of the dissertation: *De graviditate extrauterina bienni*, rewarded with a letter of commendation for the Minister of Internal Affairs. Before starting lectures on pathological anatomy, since 1832 he had been a dissector in the Chair of Anatomy. In the years 1836 - 1837 he held classes on normal anatomy substituting for professor Bielkiewicz. In the academic year 1839/40, besides lectures on pathological anatomy, he had classes on normal anatomy that included dissection room classes in "dead body dissection" with the third year students [3]. After professor Bielkiewicz's death, since 1 July, 1840, i.e. till the end of academic year, he had to hold all the anatomy classes. At the same time, at the end of academic year, the first three courses at the Medical and Surgery Academy were finished [11]. After ending his tutoring career, he left for Moscow where on 1 Aug., 1840 he took charge of the Chair of Descriptive Anatomy of Moscow University. In 1842, he was nominated an ordinary professor, and in the years 1848 - 1850 he was the Dean of the Medical Faculty of Moscow University. However, he did not break with pathological anatomy. He

**TABLE 2**

Classes schedule - "Operations on death bodies" subject at the Medical and Surgery Academy

Academic year Lecturer	Year of study	Dates of classes
1839/1840 Maksymilian Sochacki	V	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 15.30-17.00

translated from German into Russian as manual by C. E. Bock "Rukowodstwo k'patologiczeskoi antonii i diagnostiki" ("Introduction to pathological anatomy and diagnostics"), edited in Moscow in 1853. The Russian edition of Bock's book also included 13 paper by Siewruk on pathological anatomy. After Siewruk left Vilnius, the pathological anatomy classes in the academic years 1840/1841 and 1841/1842 were held by Jan (Ivan) Leonow (1809 - 1854), i.e. till the Medical and Surgery Academy was closed by the Tsar in 1842 [8]. He arrived to Vilnius from Charkov where he was a lecturer at the Chair of Anatomy. In 1837 he received the title of Ph.D. on the basis of the dissertation: *De cordis arteriarumque aneurysmatibus in genere*. In 1840, he was nominated the first associate professor of pathological anatomy in Vilnius. Since the Chair of Anatomy did not exist, Leonow might have become the head of the Chair of Pathological Anatomy along with his nomination. Bieliński wrote about him: *During his stay in Vilnius, his aptitudes could not be recognized. The time was unfavorable. The first three courses were closed; and pathological anatomy was only an additional subject for the graduating students. All that was the reason why Leonow was Vilnius professor more nominally than actually* [3]. After closing down the Academy, Leonow was moved to the post of a professor at St Wladimir University in Kiev. In 1843 he became a professor and apart from pathological anatomy he also lectured forensic medicine in Kiev. Moreover, he was the head of the Ward in Kiev military hospital. The classes held by Siewruk and by Leonow were limited mostly to lectures. Practical skills, making autopsies, dissections were, as in the Frank's times, a part of pathology and therapy classes (III and IV year of studies). Students could get acquainted with some cases during the descriptive anatomy lectures (III year of studies) [3]. Similarly, as in the Frank's and Vilnius University's times (from 1810), there was no shortage of dead bodies for classes. In the final period of academy, the schedule for 1839/1840 includes, besides general surgery, a subject called "surgery on dead bodies". The classes for the fifth year students were held by Maksymilian Sochacki [3] (Table 2).

Academy closing down resulted in moving the collections of Vilnius anatomy museum, including anatomopathological preparations, to a new anatomy museum of Kiev University. The first exhibits that were taken away in 1841,

as necessary for the first year students, were the collections from normal and comparative anatomy rooms. A year later, anatomopathological exhibits were moved to the same destination. It is worth mentioning that the museum collections were supplemented till the Medical and Surgery Academy was closed down. Therefore, they also included the preparations prepared by Jan Leonow. Few remained at the Vilnius Medical Society. The list of content made while the anatomy museum was closing down, made by the professors: Adam Ferdynand Adamowicz (1802 - 1882), Feliks Rymkiewicz (1799 - 1851) and Jan Leonow showed that pathological anatomy department included 1239 preparations presenting all areas of human pathology. The museum included 195 preparations of alimentary system, 53 of respiratory system, 128 pathologies of blood, lymphatic vessels and heart defects, 231 of urinary system and body covers which included 80 plicas, 69 changes of neuromuscular system, 376 changes of osseous system, 99 changes of female and male sex organs, and 88 fetal developmental defects. This is an opinion on the job of the Vilnius professors: *it is admirable to throw to the world of science in the middle of agony of Vilnius schools, in the very year 1842, a catalogue of a wonderful thing, which did not exist at that time any more, called Museum Anatomicum Vlnensae* [12]. Deserted building of Vilnius Anatomicum tsar powers intended onto military barracks. In 1864 year, after fall of January's rises, building was destroyed. Onto its place, in within years 1864 - 1868 the Orthodox Cathedral of Our Lady was built.

After closing down Medical and Surgical Academy, the only place reminding the old academic anatomy and pathological anatomy was anatomopathological show room of the Vilnius Medical Society. It was founded after the Academy was closed down in 1842, and at the beginning the collection consisted only of 43 preparations remaining from the museum. It was gradually enriched with the preparations supplied by the members of the Society, so at the beginning of 20th century, there were 214 preparations, including 98 fixed in spirit and 116 dry ones. After some time, the collection increased due to microscopic preparations, which was mentioned by Władysław Zahorski in 1897: *anatomopathological (room) has 202 dry and fixed in spirit preparations. Maryan Kielewicz from Strasburg University donated a rich collection of microscopic preparation of normal and pathological anatomy* [29]. It is worth mentioning that Marian Kielewicz on the list of Vilnius Medical Society members, where he belonged from 1896, was defined as "neuropathologist in Vilnius", i.e. neurologist [29]. The curators of the room in 19<sup>th</sup> and at the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century were: Klemens Maleszewski (1842 - 1873), Adam Bartoszewicz (1850 - 1852), Ludwik Zejdlar (1853 - 1869), Adolf Szeszewski (1870 - 1873), E. Szpar (1874 - 1879, 1882 - 1884 and 1886 - 1887), Apolinary Mikutowicz (1880 - 1881), I. Naruszewicz (1885), Stanisław Aksintycz (1888 - 1889),

Stefan Syrwid (1890 - 1897 and 1900 - 1901), Kazimierz Stefanowski (1898 - 1899, 1902 - 1907 and 1909 - 1911) and W. Golub (1908) [20, 29]. Some of them were Vilnius pharmacists. The next curators were taking care of the room till 1924 when the collection was moved to the newly founded, after 80-year break, Chair of Pathological Anatomy of Stephen Bathory University [20]. Moving the collection of the Society to the chair at Stephen Bathory University could be considered to be a symbolic replacement of the old tradition of pathological anatomy and its revival in the city which was a Polish, Lithuanian, and even Russian and Ukrainian cradle of that science. The next chairs of pathological anatomy were founded in Russia, the others ones, after Vilnius and Kiev, were established in 1849 in Moscow and in 1859 in Petersburg [22].

However, there still remains one question; what happened to the exhibits moved to Kiev. In 1900, Władysław Zahorski asked: *Whether they were stored in anatomical museum of Kiev University or everything was damaged? Could one of the Kiev doctors be so kind as to make a list of all the Vilnius preparations that still exist there?* [27]. The answer came after half a century. The collection existed. However, the stormy years of the first half of 20<sup>th</sup> century were not favourable for efforts to get it back. Only in the 50s of 20<sup>th</sup> century, Lithuanian pathologists of Vilnius University tried to get the old collection back to Vilnius. Another 20 years had to pass so as, in 1981, 42 preparations out of 80, that was how many were left, returned to Vilnius [20].

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