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## **Marcin Selzer, a Jewish doctor from Lviv, and his contribution to combatting tuberculosis**

At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and in the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, fighting tuberculosis became a significant social problem that the citizens of Polish partitioned territories had to struggle with. Although already in the second part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, some organisations involved in the treatment of tuberculosis were founded on Polish territories, such as the Balneology Committee, operating in 1858–77 and created within the Life and Technical Sciences Branch of the Kraków Scientific Society, or Industrial Committee within the Kraków Medical Society,<sup>1</sup> active 1877–89, it was as late as in 1900 that the groundbreaking decisions in this respect were taken at the 9<sup>th</sup> public assembly of the Convention of the Polish Doctors and Naturalists in Kraków.

- 1 Z. Moskwa, *Z dziejów gruźlicy w XIX na ziemiach polskich*, “Wiadomości Lekarskie” 38 (1985) No. 16, pp. 1189. See also: M. Nowakowska-Zamachowska, *Towarzystwo Lekarskie Krakowskie 1866–1914. Komisja Balneologiczna*, Kraków 2008, praca doktorska, [http://dl.cm-uj.krakow.pl:8080/Content/1034/Doktorat\\_monika-080212ok.pdf](http://dl.cm-uj.krakow.pl:8080/Content/1034/Doktorat_monika-080212ok.pdf) (15.11.2022).

During that Meeting, Professor Ignacy Baranowski (1833–1919) presented a program of combating tuberculosis,<sup>2</sup> comprising four aspects: promoting household and school hygiene, teaching the methods of home tuberculosis therapy with the possibility of applying the climatic assets of rural areas, reforms in hospitals (creating separate hospital wards for “chest patients” and training doctors in treatment methods), as well founding sanatoria (privately owned for the wealthiest patients, those with some financial contribution from the patients themselves for those less affluent and also institutions run by charity organisations for the poorest).<sup>3</sup> At the same Convention, in his address, Tomasz Wiktor Janiszewski (1867–1939), a municipal and sanatorium doctor in Zakopane,<sup>4</sup> proposed the creation of TB Section. A socially tangible result of these actions was the creation of the Polish Balneological Society in 1905 in Kraków – this was the first organisation which was supposed to carry out an active combat with tuberculosis on entire Polish territories under foreign rule.<sup>5</sup>

However, none of the three occupants was willing to organise the prevention and treatment system. For this reason, in the next years, the anti-tuberculosis movement was developing thanks to the activity of social organisations, TB societies and doctor-activists who were aware of the gravity of the problem.<sup>6</sup> The personal histories and activities of many of them still remain unknown. The objective of this paper is the present

2 Ignacy Baranowski – a doctor and professor of the Warsaw University, holder of the *honoris causa* doctorate at the Jagiellonian University, a social activist.

3 I. Baranowski, *Walka z gruźlicą jako zadanie społeczno-narodowe*, Kraków 1900, pp. 27–28.

4 Tomasz Wiktor Janiszewski – a doctor, and associate professor of social hygiene of the Jagiellonian University, a full professor of the Warsaw University, the minister of public health in Ignacy Jan Paderewski’s government, chief municipal doctor in Kraków, an advocate of eugenics, in: *Tomasz Wiktor Janiszewski (1867–1939), “Walka z Gruźlicą i Chorobami Płuc”* (1989) No. 3, pp. 35–36. See also: T. W. Janiszewski, *Spoleczna walka z gruźlicą za granicą i w Polsce*, Warszawa 1927.

5 L. Rajchel, W. Kuliński, J. Rajchel, *Polskie Towarzystwo Balneologiczne – rys historyczny*, “Balneologia Polska” 47 (2005) No. 1–2, pp. 56–59.

6 J. Janiuk, *Gruźlica w okresie Młodej Polski i dwudziestolecia międzywojennego w teorii i praktyce medycznej (cz. 1)*, “Medycyna Nowożytna: studia nad historią medycyny” 16 (2009/2010) No. 1–2, pp. 69–72; J. Janiuk, *Gruźlica w okresie Młodej Polski*

one of these people — Marcin Selzer, a doctor of Jewish origin from Lviv and the actions in which he participated in order to minimize the development and the effects of tuberculosis.

### **Marcin (Mojżesz, Moses, Meszulim)<sup>7</sup> Selzer (1876—1930)**

Marcin Selzer was born in Lviv. Although his birth certificate kept in the registry books of the Israeli Religious Commune was lost,<sup>8</sup> some other sources, such as the curriculum vitae which he wrote,<sup>9</sup> the documents evidencing his university studies<sup>10</sup> and professional questionnaire<sup>11</sup> — all state the state date of birth as 5 April 1876.<sup>12</sup> The birth date written in his obituary, informs that at the moment of his death — in 1930 — Selzer was 53 years old.<sup>13</sup> Therefore, the information provided by a press note from Lviv “Chwila” [“A Moment”] from 29 January 1930, in which Selzer’s date of birth is stated as 1885 should be regarded as a mistake.<sup>14</sup>

Marcin Selzer was a son of Zeew (Wolf) Selzer,<sup>15</sup> a leather merchant from Lviv,<sup>16</sup> whilst the mother’s name remains unknown. It is also known that he had two brothers — Samuel, a doctor of legal sciences

*i dwudziestolecia międzywojennego w teorii i praktyce medycznej (cz. 2), “Medycyna Nowożytna: Studia nad Historią Medycyny” 17 (2011) No. 1, pp. 41–78.*

- 7 The spelling of the doctor’s name varies depending on the source provenience.
- 8 In the collections of the Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv there are no registry books of the Jewish commune from 1868–1894.
- 9 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, *TOZ. Towarzystwo Ochrony Zdrowia Ludności Żydowskiej w Polsce (1921–1939)*, f. 503, op. I, spr. 221.
- 10 State Archives of the Lviv Oblast, *Uniwersytet Lwowski, Studenci/doktorzy medycyny (1894–1918)*, f. 26, op. 15, spr. 805.
- 11 The Jagiellonian Library, *Materiały (listy i ankiety lekarzy itp.) do “Słownika lekarzy polskich” Ludwika Guranowskiego*, manuscript Przyb. 191/72, vol. 4, part 1, p. 28.
- 12 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 503, op. 1, spr. 221. State Archives of the Lviv Oblast, f. 26, op. 15, spr. 805.
- 13 *Nekrologia*, „Chwila” 12 (1930) No. 3897, p. 6.
- 14 *Błp. Dr. Marcin Selzer*, „Chwila” 12 (1930) No. 3896, p. 3.
- 15 The father’s name is in the obituary and the documents from the university; YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, *Lwow. Death notice and funeral announcement for Dr. Marcin (Moyshe) Selzer*, sygn. RG 28/P/196. State Archives of the Lviv Oblast, f. 26, op. 15, spr. 805.
- 16 State Archives of the Lviv Oblast, f. 26, op. 15, spr. 805.

and attorney,<sup>17</sup> and David, an industrialist, a co-owner and director of Jan Stromenger's department store in Lviv; Marcin had also a sister whose name remains unknown.<sup>18</sup>

Marcin Selzer received secular education: in 1886 he started education in a German-language imperial-royal secondary school in Lviv,<sup>19</sup> with the seat at ul. Wały Gubernatorskie (after the restoration of Polish independence this was ul. Podwalna No. 2).<sup>20</sup> For a student with Jewish roots, attending the above secondary school was an opportunity to get a secular education, to improve the command of German and to consider assimilation, which was all the more important that at that time, as the majority of Lviv's Jews were assimilated in the Polish culture. Selzer's presence in the above secondary school was indicative also of his affiliation to the group of the Jews, still elitist at that time, receiving secondary secular education. In 1896, Jews made up 18.3% of all Lviv's secondary school students.<sup>21</sup> Secondary school No. 2 consisted of 8 grades — in 1891 Selzer was in the 4th grade.<sup>22</sup> He completed his matriculation examinations on 26 June 1895,<sup>23</sup> and then enrolled in the medical studies at the Franciscan University in Lviv.

Marcin Selzer was one of the first students in this field, as in 1894, under the auspices of Emperor Franz Joseph I, the Faculty of Medicine was officially opened at the Franciscan University. In this way, the Emperor continued the work of his predecessors and joined the row of the

17 „Sprawiedliwość” (1931) No. 200, p. 5. Cf. *Księga adresowa król. stol. miasta Lwowa*, Lwów 1916, p. 22.

18 This woman was the wife of doctor Henryk Atlas; *Po okropnej katastrofie obok Rawy Ruskiej*, „Chwila” 12 (1930) No. 3897, p. 11.

19 The Jagiellonian Library, manuscript Przyb. 191/72, vol. 4, part 1, p. 28.

20 M. Gajak-Toczek, *Męskie gimnazja państwowe we Lwowie w latach 1772–1914*, „Acta Universitatis Lodziensis. Folia Litteraria Polonica” 13 (2010), p. 356.

21 E. Mendelsohn, *Jewish Assimilation in Lvov: The Case of Wilhelm Feldman*, „Slavic Review” 28 (1969) No. 4, pp. 577–590.

22 *Jahresbericht des K. K. Zweiten Obergymnasiums in Lemberg für das Schuljahr 1891*, Lemberg 1891, p. 58.

23 State Archives of the Lviv Oblast, f. 26, op. 15, spr. 805. *Jahresbericht des K. K. Zweiten Obergymnasiums in Lemberg für das Schuljahr 1895*, Lemberg 1895, p. 59. See also: „Dodatek do nr. 266 Kuriera Lwowskiego” 1894, p. 2; „Chwila” (1925) No. 2303, p. 10.

patrons of the University's development.<sup>24</sup> The graduates of the medical studies obtained vocational titles of medical doctors ("Doctor medicinae universae"), whilst in order to receive a doctorate in medical sciences (PhD) they had to submit a dissertation. Selzer became a PhD in medical sciences on 21 November 1901.<sup>25</sup>

Following the binding regulations, taking up employment in internal medicine, surgery and gynaecology, required a completion of internship in a clinic or hospital. For this reason, in 1902, Selzer took a job at the National General Hospital, the largest medical institution in Lviv,<sup>26</sup> where he held consecutive posts of doctor-in-training and then 2nd class foundation doctor, and then 1st class foundation doctor (ward assistant) at the ward of internal diseases.<sup>27</sup> In 1909, for a short time period, he took over the post of the head of this ward. He also worked at the Department of Pathological Anatomy and run the Chemistry and Bacteriology Laboratory and the National General Hospital.<sup>28</sup>

In 1909–1914 he served as sanatorium chief physician at the First Folk Health Resort in Hołosko, created to provide assistance for the patients with tuberculosis.<sup>29</sup>

During the First World War, he was drafted to the military in the rank of a captain. In 1915, he was taken captive (he was imprisoned in one of the Siberian governorates).<sup>30</sup> He was outside Lviv till 1916. At that time, health resort in Hołosko was transferred into a military institution named

24 F. Jaworski, *Uniwersytet Lwowski. Wspomnienie jubileuszowe*, Lwów 1912, p. 88; W. Wojtkiewicz-Rok, *Wydział Lekarski*, in: *Academia Militans. Uniwersytet Jana Kazimierza we Lwowie*, edition, introduction and conclusions by A. Redzik, Kraków 2015, pp. 785–793, 798–800.

25 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lwów, f. 503, op. 1 spr. 221. State Archives of the Lviv Oblast, f. 26, op. 15, spr. 805. The Jagiellonian Library, manuscript Przyb. 191/72, vol. 4, part 1, p. 28.

26 P. Franaszek, *Krajowy Szpital Powszechny we Lwowie na przełomie XIX i XX wieku*, "Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego: Prace historyczne" (2000) No. 127, pp. 121–135.

27 "Kurier Lwowski" (1906) No. 16, p. 6; *Lwów jego rozwój i stan kulturalny oraz przewodnik po mieście. Pamiątka ofiarowana uczestnikom X Zjazdu Lekarzy i Przyrodników przez Wydział Gospodarczy*, skreślił prof. dr. Józef Wiczkowski, Lwów 1907, p. 295.

28 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lwów, f. 503, op. 1, spr. 221.

29 *Błp. Dr. Marcin Selzer*, „Chwila” 12 (1930) No. 3896, p. 3.

30 "Kurier Lwowski" (1915) No. 79, p. 3.

Military Hospital for Tuberculosis Patients in Hołosko which provided medical assistance for sick soldiers and disabled veterans. After the return to Lviv, Selzer took over the responsibilities of a commander of the Department.<sup>31</sup>

After the end of the war, he continued work in Hołosko. Moreover, he developed his own medical practice and reactivated his work in aid and specialist societies, such as Lviv Medical Society<sup>32</sup> and Tuberculosis Society in Lviv,<sup>33</sup> representing both societies at numerous conventions and conferences.<sup>34</sup>

Marcin Selzer authored and coauthored a number of scientific and educational papers.<sup>35</sup> He was also interested in the history hospital services, which resulted in a monograph work, “Historia szpitalnictwa żydowskiego w Polsce” [“The History of Jewish Hospital Services in Poland”],<sup>36</sup> uncompleted due to his premature death.

Marcin Selzer died on the way to his patient,<sup>37</sup> in a car accident on a railway crossing in Kamionka Wołoska on 27 January 1930.<sup>38</sup> Two days later, he was buried in a Jewish cemetery in Lviv.<sup>39</sup> He left a widow,

31 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 503, op. 1, spr. 221. His presence in the city is confirmed by the press notes informing about Selzer’s participation in a meeting with Ministerial sanitary committee visiting sanitary objects; *Kronika*, “Kurier Lwowski” 34 (1916) No. 580, p. 4.

32 Marcin Selzer’s PhD’s activity is evidenced by numerous addresses at the Society’s forum; e.g. “Lwowski Tygodnik Lekarski” (1906 I) No. 9, p. 120.

33 The Society was active till the Second World War, since 1934, it had published “Ruch Przeciwgruźliczy: organ Polskiego Związku Przeciwgruźliczego, Wojewódzkich Towarzystw Przeciwgruźliczych”; K. Brożek, *Polskie stowarzyszenia lekarskie 1805–1951*, Warszawa 2005, p. 101.

34 For example at the meeting of an Austrian tuberculosis committee in 1906; *Delegacje wspólne*, “Kurier Lwowski” 32 (1914) No. 215, p. 2.

35 He published in “Lwowski Tygodnik Lekarski”, “Przegląd Lekarski”, “Almanach zdrowia TOZ-u”, „Di Socjale Medicin. Organ fun Gez. TOZ un OZE”, “Chwila”.

36 *Błp. Dr. Marcin Selzer*, „Chwila” 12 (1930) No. 3896, p. 3.

37 This was rabbi Lejb Rokach from Rawa Ruska; *Błp. Dr. Marcin Selzer*, „Chwila” 12 (1930) No. 3896, p. 3.

38 *Błp. Dr. Marcin Selzer*, „Chwila” 12 (1930) No. 3896, p. 3.

39 An obituary informing about the death of M. Selzer; YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, Ref. No. RG 28/P/196.

Janina nee Lamm from Stanislawow and two children: a son, Artur, who was a student of medicine at that time,<sup>40</sup> and an 8-year old daughter.<sup>41</sup>

### Sanatorium in Hołosko

After taking up employment in the National General Hospital, Marcin Selzer collaborated with Józef Wiczkowski (1858–1924), a professor at John II Casimir University in Lviv, the head of the First and Second Ward of Internal Diseases of the National General Hospital in Lviv,<sup>42</sup> and then a staff member of the University Clinic of Internal Diseases, operating in Lviv from 1897.<sup>43</sup> Professor Wiczkowski's academic interests focused on "antipyrimin" — an antifebrile agent — and its metabolic effect. He also carried out studies on urine and kidney diseases.<sup>44</sup> Privately he was a great lover of Lviv, having authored a guidebook: *Lwów jego rozwój i stan kulturalny oraz przewodnik po mieście* [Lviv, its development and condition of culture and a city guide].<sup>45</sup>

Both doctors not only shared an employment at the same hospital ward, but also involvement in actions for combating tuberculosis.

40 Artur Selzer (1911–1991) — a cardiology doctor, a member of numerous societies (among others: American College of Physicians, California Academy Medicine, in which he held the post of a president in 1972–1973); <http://prabook.com/web/person-view.html?profileId=787249> (29.12.2021). One of the memoirs about Artur says: "With the permission of the professor and upon my father's request, I accepted for assistance in some of these works, a third-year student of medicine Artur Selzer, whose father, also a doctor, has just died tragically in an ambulance, smashed by a train on a railway crossing. Artur proved to be an agreeable, intelligent and well-behaved boy that a few times I cited his name as a co-author of a paper. I was attacked for this by increasingly aggressive antisemitic milieus, poisoning the atmosphere in the country. Selzer, who was encouraged to do so by many people, including myself, emigrated, winning then his name in the United States, as one of the leading cardiologists and a professor in San Francisco. His attitude towards Poland is full of friendship and a number of Polish cardiologists were trained in his clinic" (T. Kielanowski, *Mój życiorys naukowy*, "Kwartalnik Historii Nauki i Techniki" 23 (1978) No. 3–4, pp. 566–567).

41 *Błp. Dr. Marcin Selzer*, „Chwila” 12 (1930) No. 3896, p. 3.

42 At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the National General Hospital had 8 wards; as in: *Academia Militans*, p. 794.

43 *Academia Militans*, p. 834.

44 *Academia Militans*, p. 837–838.

45 *Lwów jego rozwój i stan kulturalny oraz przewodnik po mieście*, p. 295.

In 1904, the above-mentioned associate professor Tomasz Janiszewski, together with professor Antoni Gluziński (1856–1935), who, in 1897–1919 held the post of a director of the University Clinic of Internal Diseases of the Faculty of Medicine,<sup>46</sup> founded Stowarzyszenie Budowy Domów Zdrowia dla Dotkniętych Gruźlicą [the Association for the Construction of Health Institutions for Tuberculosis Patients]<sup>47</sup> in Lviv. In 1909, the Association was restructured into Tuberculosis Society.<sup>48</sup>

The Society was one of several organisations involved in combating consumption which was active before the First World War.<sup>49</sup> According to a provision in the articles of association of the Society, one of its tasks was to collect data concerning the living conditions of the residents of some urban and rural areas, providing material aid and organising anti-tuberculosis counselling. The latter objective was pursued through dissemination of knowledge about the disease, providing medical care and working for anti-tuberculosis legislation to be passed by legislative and administrative authorities as well as through co-operation with institutions which had similar objectives.<sup>50</sup>

In 1909, upon the initiative of Professor Gluziński and associate professor Janiszewski, the first healthcare institution for tuberculosis patients (dispensary) was opened in Lviv on Pańska street; it had two chambers: one for the patients and the other for the doctor on duty.<sup>51</sup> The crea-

46 *Academia Militans*, p. 835. A. Śródka, *Antoni Gluziński*, in: *Złota księga medycyny warszawskiej. Liber aureus medicinae varsoviensis*, ed. by M. Krawczyk, Warszawa 2009, pp. 123–128.

47 It was modelled on a consultation clinic in Edinburgh; R. Talewski, *Stacja klimatyczna i lecznictwa*, in: *Zakopane: czterysta lat dziejów*, vol. 1, ed. by R. Dutkova, Kraków 1991, p. 133.

48 The Central Archives of Historical Records, *Komisja Ministerialna do Zagadnień Agrarnych – Ministerialkommission für Agrarische Operationen (AO)*, ref. No. 126.

49 Z. Moskwa, *Instytucje i organizacje społeczne w walce z gruźlicą w Polsce do wybuchu II wojny światowej*, „Wiadomości Lekarskie” (1986) No. 19, p. 1362–1366.

50 The Central Archives of Historical Records, ref. No. 126. The archives of the new records, *Ministerstwo Opieki Społecznej*, ref. No. 2/15/O/-/810. „Głos lekarzy. Dwutygodnik poświęcony sprawom lekarskim, deontologii lekarskiej i zagadnieniom z zakresu medycyny społecznej” (1909) No. 23, p. 269, § 1–2.

51 F. Halaćńska, L. Węgrzynowski, *Trzydziestolecie Lwowskiego Towarzystwa Walki z Gruźlicą we Lwowie*, „Ruch Przeciwgruźliczy. Organ Wojewódzkiego Towarzystwa



tion of this centre was followed by some other initiatives: an application was submitted to Lviv's authorities for a land plot to be transferred free of charge in order to be used as a "forest station". In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, climatotherapy developed as a new branch of balneology. As a result, new climatic health resorts were set up in many mountain, submontane and forest locations which were then easily reached because of the development of communication services and also where it was possible to provide healthcare thanks to the technological progress – in these places, conservative and symptomatic therapies were combined with more invasive treatment methods. The creation of such centres was based on assumption that mountainous climate, due to a lower atmospheric pressure, caused a faster blood circulation and higher heart rate in the patients. Apart from this, tuberculin<sup>52</sup> was administered; the patients had also special diet and also hydropathic (cold showers) and hygienic (sunbathing irrespectively of the time of year)<sup>53</sup> procedures were applied for them.

Marcin Selzer took an active part in the works of the Tuberculosis Society in Lviv, where the post of the first president was held by professor Wiczkowski. As a deputy head of the National General Hospital, he visited Lviv's neighbourhood in order to find an area appropriate for the construction of a sanatorium for tuberculosis patients.<sup>54</sup> The result of these actions was the choice of Hołosko (Wielkie), a village which was recommended for the patients with internal diseases, in particular with pulmonological and cardiological conditions (asthma, tuberculosis, dyspnoea) as a place of convalescence and treatment of tuberculosis.<sup>55</sup>

Hołosko was located on the height of 360 metres above the sea level on the slopes of the hills of Lviv and Tomaszów uplands, on the line between Lviv and Brzuchowice (the distance from the Zamarstynowska

Przeciwgruźliczego i Lwowskiego Towarzystwa Walki z Gruźlicą" 1 (1934) No. 1–4, pp. 2–3.

52 Z. Moskwa, *Zarys historii leczenia gruźlicy płuc*, Warszawa 1987, pp. 63–64.

53 Z. Woźniowski, *Historyczny zarys leczenia gruźlicy płuc w Polsce*, Warszawa 1967, pp. 35–57.

54 *Nekrologja*, "Chwila" 12 (1930) No. 3897, p. 6.

55 *O opiekę nad inwalidami*, referat prof. dr. Wiczkowskiego, "Kurier Lwowski" 34 (1916) No. 255, p. 2.

toll house was about 2 km).<sup>56</sup> The sanatorium<sup>57</sup> was located on the hill sheltered from winds by a coniferous forest and belonged to the first group of folk sanatoriums set up in Galicia for tuberculosis patients (there were very few sanatoriums for tuberculosis patients in any of the partitioned sections of Poland—the network of such centres was at the point of development;<sup>58</sup> the first sanatorium was founded in 1879 in Mienia near Mińsk Mazowiecki, then another in 1893, in Otwock, and the next one—five years later in Zakopane).<sup>59</sup>

The costs of running a forest health resort were lower than the spendings on hospital treatment. Therefore, this allowed to increase the number of the hospital beds available for the TB patients, without additional expenditures. What is more, the creation of a forest health resort, made it possible to treat the patients in the first stage of the disease. Their recovery gave thus a chance for the improvement of an individual and collective health condition—the patients who recovered evidenced the efficiency and necessity of an early intervention. They could also educate others about the prevention of the disease.

The health resort was built on the lands donated by the municipality and the Riedl family.<sup>60</sup> The costs of the sanatorium infrastructure were not high, yet still the Tuberculosis Society in Lviv had limited resources,

56 *Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich*, vol. 3, ed. by F. Sulimirski, B. Chlebowski, W. Walewski, Warszawa 1882, p. 106.

57 In the further part of the text the authors use the term “sanatorium”. It must be stressed that sanatorium for tuberculosis patients could be divided into a few categories, depending on the patient’s condition and stage of the disease. The centre in Hołosko belonged to a category of “forest shelters” (Waldheim).

58 Before WWI, on the territories of partitioned Poland, there were 14 TB sanatorium with the total number of beds: 1300 (34% were in private hands, whilst others belonged to social organisations); *Walka z gruźlicą w Polsce*, ed. by M. Skokowska-Rudolf, M. Grodecki, S. Rudzki, Warszawa 1934, pp. 34–60. J. Janiuk, *Gruźlica w okresie Młodej Polski i dwudziestolecia międzywojennego w teorii i praktyce medycznej* (cz. 1), pp. 66–68.

59 J. Janiuk, *Gruźlica w okresie Młodej Polski i dwudziestolecia międzywojennego w teorii i praktyce medycznej* (cz. 1), pp. 66–68; A. Sabatowski, *Krótki zarys leczenia klimatycznego i zdrojowo-kąpielowego w Polsce*, in: *Uzdrowiska polskie*, ed. by W. Przywieczerski, Warszawa 1936, p. 42.

60 See: The Central Archives of Historical Records, C. K. Ministerstwo Rolnictwa; *K. k. Ackerbauministerium (1888–1918)*, ref. No. 309/126.

coming mostly from the collections carried out by the Ladies' committee under the leadership of countess Otylda Stadnicka,<sup>61</sup> so it was not possible to afford any extensive construction works.<sup>62</sup> As a result — at the moment of the sanatorium's opening — the institution consisted of 2 barracks with hospital equipment borrowed from the Red Cross.<sup>63</sup> The official opening of the centre with 30 beds<sup>64</sup> and intended for all the patients irrespectively of their sex, nationality or religion,<sup>65</sup> was held on 11 July 1909.<sup>66</sup>

The centre was designated for all-day treatment, organised in a few weeks' cycles (initially the treatment cycle was 6 weeks, with time it developed into a two-months' period) occurring in spring and summer (the barracks had no heating).<sup>67</sup> As the first results presented by doctor Selzer in his report from the health resort activity<sup>68</sup> were quite promising (an average weight gain was 4–5 kg), and the patients could propagate the knowledge on combating tuberculosis, the sanatorium kept growing.<sup>69</sup>

61 The Jews donated 5 thousand kronas for the sanatorium. The collection was carried out by Mrs Natanowa Loewensteinowa and doctor Maksymilian Bett; *Bezpłatne sanatorium dla suchotników*, "Jedność: organ Żydów polskich" (1909) No. 29, p. 7.

62 F. Halacińska, L. Węgrzynowski, *Trzydziestolecie Lwowskiego Towarzystwa Walki z Gruźlicą we Lwowie*, pp. 2–3.

63 *Bezpłatne sanatorium dla suchotników*, "Jedność: organ Żydów polskich" (1909) No. 29, p. 7; M. Selzer, *Wyniki leczenia w uzdrowisku ludowym w Hołosku*, "Lwowski Tygodnik Lekarski" 4 (1909) No. 49, pp. 565–568.

64 Some sources mention 26 such centres; A. Kierzek, M. Paprocka-Borowicz, J. Kuciel-Lewandowska, K. Tuszyński, J. Kotuła, *Hołosko — znany ośrodek leczenia gruźlicy na kresach południowo-wschodnich Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, "Pomeranian Journal of Life Sciences" 63 (2017) No. 1, p. 64.

65 „Kurier Lwowski” 27 (1909) No. 320, p. 2. In the press notes from that period there are mentions informing about the boycott of the sanatorium undertaken by the Ruthenians as a consequence of the exclusive use of the Polish for the inscriptions in the centre; "Kurier Lwowski" 30 (1912) No. 185, p. 6.

66 The equality of all before the disease was also stressed by archbishop Teodorowicz in his address accompanying the blessing of the barracks; „Kurier Lwowski” (1909) No. 320, p. 2.

67 *Rozmaitości*, "Nowiny Lekarskie" (1910) No. 8, p. 505.

68 M. Selzer, *Wyniki leczenia w uzdrowisku ludowym w Hołosku*, Lwów 1909.

69 "Nowiny Lekarskie" 22 (1910) No. 6, p. 376.

In 1911, the health resort had its own barrack,<sup>70</sup> whilst in 1914, it gained three other barracks built from the subsidies from the local health funds, with places for 50 patients.<sup>71</sup> The sanatorium also received its own pavilion which allowed to organise first winter treatment cycles in winter 1911.<sup>72</sup>

Together with the development of the sanatorium, some changes were introduced in the treatment: the treatment period was prolonged (to at least three months), and tuberculin,<sup>73</sup> was accepted for the treatment of TB; this therapy, however, frequently resulted in the deterioration of a patient's condition and, therefore, was not approved some of the medical milieus.<sup>74</sup>

During the First World War, when doctor Selzer was outside Lviv, the responsibilities of the sanatorium head were taken over by Professor Wiczowski, who combined this function with the work in a hospital.<sup>75</sup> The sanatorium survived the war turmoil, yet its infrastructure was destroyed during the Polish-Ukrainian war (1918–1919). The reconstruction which started in 1922 was possible thanks to the support from the president of the Tuberculosis Society in Lviv and to the resources from the health fund. As a result, 30 patients could be treated in the sanatorium in winter, whilst in summer—100.<sup>76</sup> In 1927, the sanatorium offered 42 all-year places

70 *Lecznica Lwowskiego Towarzystwa Walki z Gruźlicą w Hołosku koło Lwowa*, in: *Polski almanach uzdrowisk*, Kraków 1934, p. 405; Z. Woźniewski, *Historyczny zarys leczenia gruźlicy płuc w Polsce*, p. 52.

71 *Hołosko Wielkie*, "Kurier Lwowski" 32 (1914) No. 205, p. 3.

72 S. Lewicki, T. Praschil, M. Orłowicz, *Przewodnik po zdrojowiskach i miejscowościach klimatycznych Galicyi obejmujący: zdrojowiska, uzdrowiska, zakłady lecznicze, latowiska, miejscowości klimatyczne oraz miejscowości posiadające źródła mineralne, wreszcie stacje turystyczne i sportów zimowych z mapą Galicyi*, Lwów 1912, p. 49.

73 "Kurier Lwowski" 30 (1912) No. 185, p. 6.

74 A fluid for diagnosing tuberculosis, known as tuberculin, was worked out by Professor Odo Bujwid (1857–1942), the first Polish bacteriologist, a pioneer of hygiene and health prophylaxis. Tuberculin was used for the first time to diagnose the infection by Clemensavon Pirquet in 1907, whilst the method of its intradermal administration was introduced a year later by Charles Mantoux.

75 A. Beck, *Uniwersytet Jana Kazimierza we Lwowie podczas inwazji rosyjskiej w roku 1914/15*, Lwów 1935, p. 49.

76 *Walka z gruźlicą*, "Chwila" 8 (1926) No. 2751, p. 8.

and 62 used only in summer.<sup>77</sup> In the 1930s, the folk sanatorium for chest patients of the Lviv Tuberculosis Society, changed its name to “Hospital in Hołosko of the Lviv Tuberculosis Society”, thus becoming a hospital and a sanatorium.<sup>78</sup> It had 3 old pavilions and 1 new, so, as a consequence, it could host 153 patients in summers and 97 patients in winters<sup>79</sup>. It was divided into two wards: internal diseases and tuberculosis (yet terminally ill patients were not accepted to the latter one).<sup>80</sup>

Although some more sanatoriums were set up with time: some were located quite close to Lviv (e.g., in Tatarów upon Prut) whilst others—within a longer distance (among others in Otwock and Rudka near Warsaw), the centre in Hołosko enjoyed the greatest popularity among the residents of Lviv<sup>81</sup> until the times of the Second World War.

Doctor Marcin Selzer, as a sanatorium doctor and also as the head of this institution, (he was replaced in the post of the director and head doctor of the sanatorium by doctor Lesław Węgrzynowski),<sup>82</sup> he had great merits for the development of the institution and its modern management. He presented his achievements in this respect in the reports discussing the activity of the centre,<sup>83</sup> in press articles and in his numerous addresses

77 F. Halacińska, L. Węgrzynowski, *Trzydziestolecie Lwowskiego Towarzystwa Walki z Gruźlicą we Lwowie*, p. 6.

78 F. Halacińska, L. Węgrzynowski, *Trzydziestolecie Lwowskiego Towarzystwa Walki z Gruźlicą we Lwowie*, p. 6.

79 Z. Woźniewski, *Historyczny zarys leczenia gruźlicy płuc w Polsce*, p. 52.

80 *Lecznica Lwowskiego Towarzystwa Walki z Gruźlicą w Hołosku koło Lwowa*, pp. 400—401; M. K., *Bastion walki z gruźlicą w Hołosku*, „Chwila” 15 (1933) No. 5082, p. 14.

81 A. Sabatowski, *Krótki zarys lecznictwa klimatycznego i zdrojowo-kąpielowego w Polsce*, in: *Uzdrowiska polskie*, ed. by W. Przywieczerski, Warszawa 1936, pp. 35—62; K. Sajsse-Tobiczyk, *Uzdrowiska polskie. Ilustrowany przewodnik po zdrojowiskach, stacjach klimatycznych, kąpieliskach morskich, wczasowiskach i miejscowościach wypoczynkowych*, Warszawa 1947, p. 27.

82 Lesław Węgrzynowski (1885—1956)—a pharmacologist, pulmonologist, one of the pioneers in combating tuberculosis on Polish territories, organiser of sanatoriums. A relative of professor Antoni W. Gluziński, with professional ties with the General Hospital in Lviv, an activist of the Lviv Tuberculosis Society; I. Suchanek, *Lesław Węgrzynowski*, [www.cracovia-leopolis.pl](http://www.cracovia-leopolis.pl) (15.11.2022). “Chwila” (1933) No. 5082, p. 14.

83 See M. Selzer, *Wyniki leczenia w uzdrowisku ludowym w Hołosku (sprawozdanie drugie)*, Lwów 1911.

delivered both on a domestic and international scene. This was not only the issue of the sanatorium's development (another land plot was donated by the municipality), but also of the activity for improvement of the centre's infrastructure. It was during his directorship that resources were regularly completed, state-of-the-art medical equipment purchased, electrical lighting was installed and water and sewage collection and central heating systems installed.

### **Marcin Selzer as a doctor and social activist**

As it was already mentioned, Marcin Selzer began his medical career in the National General Hospital in Lviv. At the same time he was developing his own private practice. His activity is evidenced in the entries in Lviv's directory where the lists of Lviv doctors display his name as one of several specialists in internal medicine.

Initially doctor Selzer was seeing the patients at ul. Wałowa No. 7,<sup>84</sup> from 1908 at ul. Kopernika No. 10,<sup>85</sup> and then at ul. Halicka No. 21. Lviv's press, especially "Chwila", contained regular advertisements informing about doctor Selzer's private practice. The patients could also reach him by telephone at 1172.<sup>86</sup> In the press also, the doctor announced his numerous trips which meant the periods of suspending his medical practice.

The most important professional issue for Selzer, however, was fighting tuberculosis. His work at the sanatorium in Hołosko made him a renowned propagator of a combat against this disease. His achievements in this field, impressive knowledge and great engagement in the cause were appreciated: in 1918 he was elected to be the delegate of the National Committee for combating tuberculosis. The main task for doctor Selzer was then to organise a tuberculosis consultation clinic in Eastern Małopolska. In 1919 he extended his competencies, obtaining the mandate of the agency of the Red Cross and Consultation Clinic for tuberculosis patients.<sup>87</sup>

84 "Kurier Lwowski" (evening edition) (1908) No. 189, p. 5.

85 "Kurier Lwowski" (evening edition) (1909) No. 237, p. 6.

86 *Kalendarz Lwowskiego Towarzystwa Ratunkowego na rok 1914*, Lwów 1914, p. 116.

87 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lwów, f. 503, op. 1, spr. 221.

The task of setting up tuberculosis consultation clinics was fulfilled. In the 1930s, only in Lviv's province, there were more than 40 tuberculosis consultation clinics,<sup>88</sup> including six in Lviv.<sup>89</sup>

Running a private practice as well as working in the hospital gave doctor Marcin Selzer an opportunity to treat his co-religionists. After the end of the First World War, the Jewish community in Lviv started an initiative with an objective to combat infectious diseases, spreading as a result of the war, deterioration of the living conditions and also resulting from the necessity to provide healthcare to the Jewish population of the Second Polish Republic. These activities became the reason why Jewish doctors (including doctor Selzer) in 1919 created a sanitary section within the Jewish rescue committee with an objective to counteract the epidemic of spotted typhus and other infectious diseases which at that time scourged the Jewish inhabitants of the Polish territories.

This section was transformed into a Hygiene Propagation Society among the Jews, in which Marcin Selzer took the responsibilities of the secretary general.<sup>90</sup> This Society was planned to carry out hygienic and social work among abandoned and impoverished Jewish community in Lviv and in a number of other towns of Eastern Małopolska. The funds were provided by the Joint, which, in contacts with the Society, was represented by the Central Sanitary Committee. However, when the Joint was liquidated in 1922, the Society, then managed by doctor Emil Parnas, had to act on its own, without the previous financial support.<sup>91</sup>

88 In 1936, consultation clinics existed in the following centres: Borysław, Bóbrka, Brzozów, Chodorów, Dobromil, Drohobycz, Dublany, Gródek Jagielloński, Jarosław, Jaworów, Kolbuszowa, Komarno, Krosno, Lesko, Leżajsk, Lubaczów, Lwów, Łańcut, Łąka, Niżankowice, Pruchnik, Przemyśl, Przeorsk, Radymno, Rawa Ruska, Rudnik upon Sane, Rymanów, Sambor, Sanok, Sieniawa, Sokal, Szczerec, Tarnobrzeg, Turka upon Stryj, Winniki, whilst in 1937, new clinics in Borysław, Cieszanow and Stary Sambor were set up; The archives of the new records, *Ministerstwo Opieki Społecznej (1918–1939)*, ref. No. 2/15/0/-/1512, ref. No. 2/15/0/-/1463.

89 The Archives of the New Records, ref. No. 2/15/0/-/1464. See also: W. Ziembicki, *Początki walki z gruźlicą we Lwowie*, „Polska Gazeta Lekarska” (1927) No. 43, pp. 912–914.

90 [http://search.archives.jdc.org/multimedia/Documents/NY\\_AR2132/00058/NY\\_AR2132\\_01047.pdf](http://search.archives.jdc.org/multimedia/Documents/NY_AR2132/00058/NY_AR2132_01047.pdf) (08.01.2021).

91 *Piętnaście lat pracy dla zdrowia ludności żydowskiej. Od Towarzystwa Szerzenia Higieny wśród Żydów we Lwowie do Towarzystwa Ochrony Zdrowia Ludności Żydowskiej w Polsce*

The Hygiene Propagation Society among the Jews was then already divided into 6 sections: propaganda, combating tuberculosis, fighting infectious diseases, care for pregnant women and infants, combating venereal diseases and financial section; the Society numbered about 250 members living in Lviv, all of them obliged to pay a monthly fee. It also had 140 local committees. Both in Lviv and outside the city, the Society carried out the actions promoting hygiene and health prophylaxis, distribution of cleaning supplies, underwear, and clothing.<sup>92</sup> In 1923, newly elected board of the Society elected its presidium, which was led by doctor Selzer.<sup>93</sup>

At the Jewish hospital of Maurycy Lazarus foundation, the Joint set up an anti-favus station, a room with beds for children with tuberculosis and devices from a bacteriology laboratory and that is why the Hygiene Propagation Society among the Jews could start actions in disseminating hygiene practices. Initially, when managed by doctor Emil Parnas, these actions brought minor results, yet they intensified after the election of doctor Selzer to be the President:<sup>94</sup> at that time, the lectures and trainings were organised with an intention to increase the knowledge of the community in this respect, and moreover, good hygienic practices were popularised by means of organising cleanliness competitions or sanitary patrol checking the hygienic conditions in Jewish households.

In 1927, the General Assembly of the Hygiene Propagation Society among the Jews, accepted a motion to include this organisation into the Health Protection Society for the Jewish Community in Poland (TOZ) as its section in Lviv. At the same time, a five-person liquidation committee was set up with Selzer as one of its members.<sup>95</sup>

The end of the activity of the Hygiene Propagation Society among the Jews and setting up the Lviv branch of TOZ meant a new post for doctor Selzer — he was elected the President of the Lviv Branch of TOZ. He continued to fulfil these duties until the end of his life.

(TOZ) *Oddział we Lwowie (1922—1937)*, „Przegląd Społeczny” 11 (1937) No. 1—2, p. 23.

92 [http://search.archives.jdc.org/multimedia/Documents/NY\\_AR2132/00058/NY\\_AR2132\\_01047.pdf](http://search.archives.jdc.org/multimedia/Documents/NY_AR2132/00058/NY_AR2132_01047.pdf) (08.01.2021).

93 Doctor Henryk Wein and attorney doctor [...] Appenzeller took over the responsibilities of the deputy presidents whilst doctor Henryk Begleiter, became the secretary general; Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 503, op. I, spr. 76.

94 *Piętnaście lat pracy dla zdrowia ludności żydowskiej*, p. 24.

95 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 503, op. I, spr. 100.



Managing the branch was not the only honour that Selzer received: he was also included into the management board of the Health Protection Society for the Jewish Community in Poland. This Society, together with the *Brijus—Zdrowie* Jewish Tuberculosis Society and *Marpe* Jewish Society for the Care for Underprivileged Jews with Tuberculosis made up one of several organisations involved in combating TB. In the interbellum period, the group of tuberculosis organisations comprised also Polish Tuberculosis Society, School Antituberculosis League, fighting with tuberculosis among school students, as well as some professional organisations — Polish Teachers' Association, the Trade Union of Mails, Telegraphs and Telephones of the Polish Republic, "Police Health House" ["Policyjny Dom Zdrowia"] Society, Organisation of Rail Workers, "Brotherly Aid" ["Bratnia Pomoc"] Society, "Rebirth" ["Odrodzenie"] Association of Health Houses of Polish Catholic Youth or the Polish Association for the Study of Tuberculosis.<sup>96</sup>

Having full autonomy in his activities, doctor Selzer started operations on many fronts. First, he took actions to obtain some premises for the TOZ. As a result of these efforts, some premises at ul. Stanisława No. 5 were assigned to the Society. Moreover, Selzer initiated actions aiming to create 6 sections within the Lviv Branch of the Health Protection Society for the Jewish Community in Poland: organisation and propaganda, consultation clinic for pregnant women, consultation clinic for mothers, anti-favus and anti-tuberculosis and physical education consultation clinics. In the years that followed, some other sections were set up, such as: nutritional, scientific, for schools, vacation trips and social events. The TOZ organised also a number of lectures, presentations and meetings propagating knowledge in hygiene and prophylaxis. The Society also carried out active missions of distribution of medication, clothing and food, as well as screening examinations.<sup>97</sup>

96 Z. Moskwa, *Instytucje i organizacje społeczne w walce z gruźlicą w Polsce do wybuchu II wojny światowej*, „Wiadomości Lekarskie” (1986) No. 19, p. 1366.

97 See A. Jakimyszyn-Gadocha, *W trosce o zdrowie żydowskich mieszkańców Lwowa (1918–1939)*, Kraków—Budapest—Syracuse 2021, pp. 170–173.

### **Anti-tuberculosis consultation clinic**

Some specific sections, operating both within Hygiene Propagation Society among the Jews, and, after its liquidation, Health Protection Society for the Jewish Community in Poland, run clinics for co-religionists with the most active being the anti-tuberculosis consultation clinic. The clinics which offered care for all the residents irrespectively of their religion were very scarce in the Second Republic (in 1920 there were 30 consultation clinics, two years later – 37, whilst in 1925 – 65).<sup>98</sup> However, the majority of them had a limited range of activity on account of the shortage of staff and finances. In the case of the Lviv Anti-tuberculosis Consultation Clinic, the situation was entirely different: the origins of the clinic went back to 1925, which was the most intensive moment of setting up such institutions. Its foundation was based on a provision in the articles of association of the Hygiene Propagation Society among the Jews which stated that it was necessary to open such a clinic.

The clinic with its full name being Lviv tuberculosis clinic and consultation centre number 2,<sup>99</sup> was located in the premises of Maurycy Lazarus Jewish hospital. Doctor Selzer was the head of the clinic, whilst his deputy was doctor Emil Philipp. Initially, apart from the doctors, the staff comprised also a nurse. With time, 2 volunteer doctors joined the personnel.<sup>100</sup> In accordance with the adopted regulations, the doctors at the clinic should have some experience and have completed supplementary courses in anti-TB prophylaxis. Moreover, they should be trained in leading tuberculosis consultation clinics. As for nurses – they should be the graduates of 2-year high schools for nurses, and, if this was not possible – they should at least have 6-grade school education and antituberculosis training and internship in an antituberculosis consultation clinic.<sup>101</sup>

The consultation clinic was open for a few hours, initially twice a week (on Sundays and Wednesdays), later on – three times a week to be finally

98 K. Bross, *Spółeczna walka z gruźlicą w Polsce w ubiegłym piętnastoleciu*, „Medycyna Praktyczna” (1933) No. 11, p. 2.

99 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 503, op. I, spr. 34. A. Jakimyszyn-Gadocha, *W trosce o zdrowie żydowskich mieszkańców Lwowa (1918–1939)*, pp. 137–152.

100 A. Jakimyszyn-Gadocha, *W trosce o zdrowie żydowskich mieszkańców Lwowa (1918–1939)*, pp. 137–152.

101 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 503, op. I, spr. 35.

open on all days except for Saturdays.<sup>102</sup> As it was located in a hospital, its management permitted to use its X-ray and to refer the most severely sick patients for hospitalisation there.<sup>103</sup> The equipment of the consultation clinic was not overly extensive, comprising a cabinet, desk, examination couch and a table for bacteriology testing.<sup>104</sup> Within next years, new members joined the clinic's team. The clinic also had a chemical laboratory, a quartz lamp, a diathermy and chemical and bacteriology laboratory. The clinic also managed a 14-bed ward for children and 8-bed ward for adult patients.<sup>105</sup>

The patients using the assistance of the antituberculosis consultation clinic, reported there themselves, which meant that they had to make their decision to start treatment; they were also referred by the sanitary patrols or doctors working in Jewish schools on the basis of the interviews carried out at their homes. Medical assistance was provided free of charge. The poorest patients could also receive soap, cod-liver oil and clothing.<sup>106</sup>

### **Vacation trips for tuberculosis patients**

Sanatorium in Hołosko was designated for adults. The fact that many patients were also children and adolescents resulted in a search for effective treatment methods such as climatic therapies, diet and hygiene care. Such practices developed during Poland's partition period, comprised vacation trips for tuberculosis child patients<sup>107</sup> and those exposed to infected environment. Moreover, summer care centres were organised, which

102 *Piętnaście lat pracy dla zdrowia ludności żydowskiej. Od Towarzystwa Szerzenia Higieny wśród Żydów we Lwowie do Towarzystwa Ochrony Zdrowia Ludności Żydowskiej w Polsce (TOZ) Oddział we Lwowie (1922—1937)*, in: *Almanach Zdrowia TOZ-u i Szpitala Żydowskiego fundacji Maurycego Lazarusza*, Lviv 1937, advertisement on the cover.

103 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, *Izraelicka Gmina Wyznaniowa we Lwowie (1785—1942)*, f. 701, op. III, spr. 694.

104 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, *Izraelicka Gmina Wyznaniowa we Lwowie (1785—1942)*, f. 701, op. III, spr. 34.

105 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, *Izraelicka Gmina Wyznaniowa we Lwowie (1785—1942)*, f. 701, op. III, spr. 35.

106 *Piętnaście lat pracy dla zdrowia ludności żydowskiej*, p. 8.

107 The first vacation trip in 1882 was organised for the sick children of Warszawa by the Society for Vacation Trips for Poor and Sick children; D. Krysa-Leszczyńska, *Doktor Stanisław Markiewicz jako organizator pierwszych letnich kolonii dla dzieci w Warszawie*, „Polski Tygodnik Lekarski” (1977) No. 35, pp. 1383—1384.

provided an opportunity to promote appropriate hygienic behaviours among these patients, whereas for the staff, such as doctors and teachers, these centres gave an occasion to exchange experience.<sup>108</sup>

For this reason, the actions started by doctor Selzer comprised also the organisation and development of summer centres for Jewish children suffering from tuberculosis. An interest in summer trips for sick Jewish children developed at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>109</sup> In 1924, Selzer became a member of the Regional Committee for the combating tuberculosis, and, four years later — of the committee for summer trips, organised at the Department of Labour and Social Care of the Lviv Province.<sup>110</sup> Being a member of the Lviv Medical Chamber, and of the above-mentioned Jewish organisations, he advocated sending as many children as possible, both in summers and in winters, to vacation health promoting trips.

The first such trip was organised in 1923, when children and youth were sent for their summer and winter vacation trips to diverse locations: Brzuchowice, Buczacza-Podleśnik, Dębina, Diłok upon Prut, Łojowa, Skole, Stanisławów, Strzyłki-Topolnica near Stary Sambor or else to Teleśnica Oszwarowa, Tuchola and Turek.<sup>111</sup> The preferred locations were mountains or health resorts. For many years, however, Jewish community did not have their own vacation house. That is why, hospital or school premises or private houses were rented.<sup>112</sup> It was as late as in the 1930s that the Lviv Branch of the Health Protection Society for the Jewish Community in Poland came into possession of a house in Brzuchowice.<sup>113</sup> The house was named after the author of the idea — doctor Marcin Selzer, yet it was opened only after his death in 1934.<sup>114</sup> The construction was possible thanks to the finances collected by the entire Jewish community.

108 Similar actions were carried out in other cities; see A. Maślak-Maciejewska, *Ku poprawie zdrowia i „utrzymaniu duszy dzięcięcej w atmosferze słonecznej i radosnej” — lecznicza kolonia wakacyjna dla dzieci żydowskich w Rabce (1890–1939)*, „Studia Historyczne” 58 (2015) No. 3 (231), pp. 349–366.

109 See A. Jakimyszyn, *Organized Recreation-Curative Stays for Adults and Children. An Analysis of Cases from the Lvov Area from the Interwar Period*, „Scripta Judaica Cracoviensia” 12 (2014), pp. 87–97.

110 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 503, op. I, spr. 221.

111 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 503, op. I, spr. 57, 66, 67, 68.

112 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 503, op. I, spr. 57.

113 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 503, op. I, spr. 60.

114 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 503, op. I, spr. 60.

The idea was supported in diverse manners, whilst the support action was initiated at Marcin Selzer's funeral, when the request for donations was announced to the public.<sup>115</sup>

Upon its opening, the vacation house in Brzuchowice had slightly more than 100 beds.<sup>116</sup> That is why in the years that followed, before the Second World War, some attempts were made to increase the house capacity.

The creation of a vacation house was not the only idea of the doctor. He also created the whole procedure of qualifying for such a trip, as not every child could participate in it. The decision was made on the basis of a doctor's assessment after the medical examination to which even healthy-looking children from the schools in Lviv were sent. This procedure allowed to find the children with tuberculosis or those who lived with infected relatives. It was also possible to distinguish the poorest and inadequately nutritioned school students. The children received a referral from the school doctor, a specialist from antituberculosis consultation clinic or a Jewish hospital.<sup>117</sup> This did not mean, however, that all such children could go for these trips, because the financial resources for such trips were limited. Attempts were made to find some other sources of financing, such as donations collected by various sections of the Society.

When examining, doctors filled in the child health report charts. Apart from the personal data, age, and the name of the school, the chart contained information on the health status, living conditions and financial situation of the family<sup>118</sup>. This shows that the participants on such trips represented various backgrounds with the majority being the children whose parents or guardians did not have permanent incomes or came from working class, crafters or sellers. The smallest group of children came from the families in which the parents were freelancers or held some offices.<sup>119</sup>

115 *Piętnaście lat pracy dla zdrowia ludności żydowskiej*, p. 8.

116 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 503, op. I, spr. 59.

117 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 503, op. I, spr. 57, 62.

118 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 503, op. I, spr. 57–110.

119 Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 503, op. I, spr. 57.

## **Conclusions**

The activity of doctor Marcin Selzer was not solely limited to the initiatives mentioned above. He also took part in numerous aid actions, but his works for combating tuberculosis were definitely the most significant as they allowed to influence the health condition of the whole society and to teach appropriate hygienic practices among many generations of the residents of Lviv. His impact on the health status of the society can be evidenced by the fact that these actions were continued until the outbreak of the Second World War, which gave doctor Marcin Selzer a prominent place amongst Jewish doctors from Lviv who significantly contributed to the development of the health care provided for members of his faith.

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## Abstract

Anna Jakimyszyn-Gadocha

*Marcin Selzer, a Jewish doctor from Lviv, and his contribution to combatting tuberculosis*

The objective of the paper is to discuss the actions to combat tuberculosis undertaken by Marcin Selzer (1876—1930), a medical doctor of a Jewish origin. Selzer worked in the National General Hospital in Lviv (today Lviv in Ukraine), and a sanatorium for TB patients in Hołosko and had also a private consultation room. He was engaged in the activities carried out by medical and aid societies, playing an active role in promoting the most recent methods of TB diagnosing and treatment. Doctor Selzer also had a contribution for the development of a sanatorium in Hołosko, improved a system of vacation trips for Jewish children and co-created a TB clinic for Jews in Lviv.

### **Keywords:**

Marcin Selzer, history of medicine, tuberculosis, treatment, sanatorium, consultation clinic, vacation trip, Galicia, Lviv, Hołosko

# Abstrakt

Anna Jakimyszyn-Gadocha

*Marcin Selzer, żydowski lekarz ze Lwowa, i jego działania  
na rzecz walki z gruźlicą*

Celem artykułu jest zaprezentowanie działań Marcina Selzera (1876–1930), lekarza o żydowskim rodowodzie, na rzecz walki z gruźlicą. Selzer pracował w Krajowym Szpitalu Powszechnym we Lwowie, sanatorium dla gruźliczochorych w Hołosku i prowadził prywatną praktykę. Angażował się w działalność towarzystw lekarskich i pomocowych. Propagował najnowsze metody diagnozowania i leczenia gruźlicy. Przyczynił się do rozwoju sanatorium w Hołosku, systemu wyjazdów kolonijnych dla dzieci żydowskich oraz powstania poradni przeciwgruźliczej dla Żydów we Lwowie.

## **Słowa kluczowe:**

Marcin Selzer, historia medycyny, gruźlica, leczenie, sanatorium, poradnia, kolonia, Galicja, Lwów, Hołosko