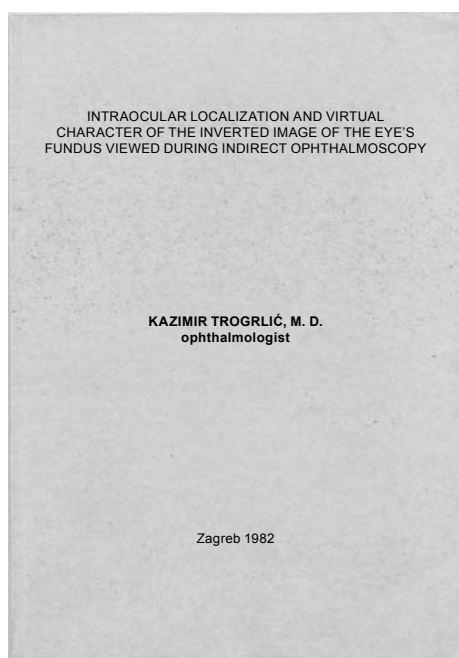


ON NOTABLE BOOKS IN OUR HISTORY



In the longstanding history of our hospital, many books have been written by our physicians, mainly textbooks and handbooks in various fields of medicine, or less frequently books intended for patients and all those interested in health and healthy life. There are only rare, or hardly any book dedicated to medicine as a science or profession, reporting own discoveries, reflection of some scientific issue on which the author has his specific opinion, ideas and analysis. Yet, here is such a book written by Professor Kazimir Trogrlić, MD, PhD, ophthalmologist, entitled Intraocular Localization and Virtual Character of the Inverted Image of the Eye's Fundus Viewed during Indirect Ophthalmoscopy. The book appeared in 1982 as the author's own edition, printed in 400 copies. During his career, Professor Trogrlić published a number of papers in Croatian and international journals (the first one in 1962) on eye accommodation and

photoskiascopy, while his doctoral dissertation from 1967 also tackled this issue. It should be noted that in 1972 and 1974, Professor Trogrlić applied for patents for his technical solution of photographic visualization of eye accommodation by use of the monocular photoskiascopic phenomenon^{1,2}. All these works were inspired by the research and work of Hermann L.F. von Helmholtz, one of the greatest 19th century natural scientists dealing with physiology, physics, mathematics and psychology. Helmholtz determined lens convexity, explained eye accommodation and devised ophthalmoscope. As said by Professor Trogrlić in the epilogue to his book, it is also dedicated to Helmholtz "whose scientific genius is admired by everybody"³. However, it did not prevent Professor Trogrlić to publish his studies and conclusions that were inconsistent with Helmholtz's research. Professor Trogrlić was an erudite; besides medicine, he was a true connoisseur of classic languages, Latin language in particular, classic literature and culture, which emanates from his papers where he frequently quotes Latin sayings by ancient poets and philosophers.

As a longstanding hospital physician, he acquired great practical knowledge he used in his research; however, as a wise man and researcher, he knew that all phenomena in nature must be explained by observation, measurement, experiment and calculation, and above all by creative reasoning. As if he followed Goethe's saying: "Man must persist in believing that the inconceivable is conceivable, or he will never make a discoverer". Professor Trogrlić did not give his research up, describing it in this book. It should be noted that historical reviews in our books on University Department of Ophthalmology mention this book only as a fact^{4,5}, while his colleague, Professor Miladin Štriga, author of the chapter on eye physiology in three editions of the Croatian textbook

Ophthalmology (Oftalmologija)⁶⁻⁸ cites him only by his family name, without referring to the literature as a source, so that the reader cannot identify him. There are no articles or texts on Professor Trogrlić except for these scant notes! Although it is a very close and, let me put it so, a resolved field of research, young people should be given an opportunity to learn about Professor Trogrlić and his work as an example how one can engage in the research, thinking, questioning and reaching answers while doing his daily routine! Today's answers are different and that is what we all expect from science, but observation and research are reserved for those who really want to know and take part in the adventure of discovery, just as many have done over centuries, among them Professor Kazimir Trogrlić. Let us conclude this in his manner: "*Homo doctus in se semper divitias habet*" ("A learned person always has wealth inside himself").

Tanja Sušec

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