# ON NOTABLE BOOKS IN OUR MEDICAL HISTORY



Here is another book by Dr. Radovan Marković, written for the Croatian people and intended for health education of the population at large. This time, Marković deals with infectious diseases as one of the major healthcare problems at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century worldwide. The book is entitled Infectious Diseases – Advice for the Croatian People, and was published by St. Jerome Society in Zagreb in 1916.

Like his other works, Marković does not use professional style in this book either; he rather prefers lan-

guage of the people to be comprehensible to everyone, especially those providing care for the patient. At present, the book is of interest for medicine historians and specialists in infectious diseases as well as for sociologists because Marković extensively describes various forms of superstition and ignorance of the time. Now we can laugh at some absurdities of the time such as carrying a walnut under one's arm to prevent infection. Marković takes it as an example to explain that these people pose a risk of transmitting infectious diseases to the others because due to their superstition they move freely among infected people. In fact, they carry greater risk than the poor and the ignorant, since the latter can still be helped through instructions and medical care.

Considering the above phenomenon, we have to admit that our time is also abundant in various forms of superstition; there is (perhaps) no walnut under the arm anymore but there is plenty of pills, potions, teas, magnet bracelets, etc., thus Marković's warnings and explanations on the need of continuous education of both the patients and the carers are still quite actual. The praiseworthy language Dr. Marković uses in the previously reviewed book entitled Child Care – Instructions to Young Mother should also be mentioned here. He had excellent knowledge of the popular, colloquial terms for many infectious diseases that had for centuries been present in Croatia and in the world.

# Reference

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Tanja Sušec

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Examples of reference citations are listed.

# **EXAMPLES OF REFERENCE CITATIONS**

# ARTICLES IN JOURNALS

Standard journal article (list the first six authors followed by et al.) Vega KJ, Pina I, Krevsky B. Heart transplantation is associated with an increased risk for pancreatobiliary disease. Ann Intern Med 1996:124:980-3.

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