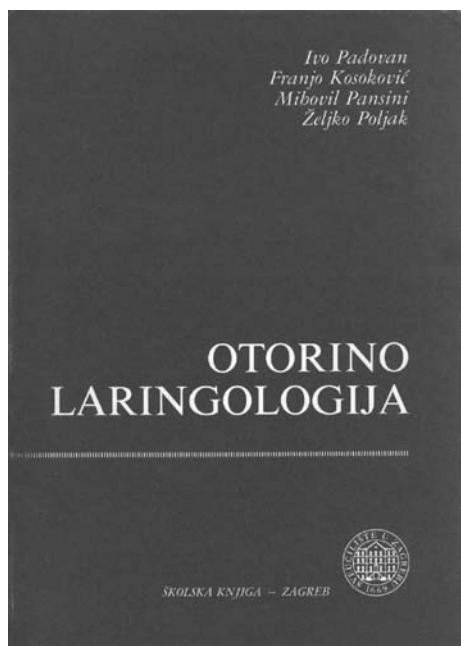


## ON NOTABLE BOOKS IN OUR MEDICAL HISTORY



From a series of university textbooks written or edited by our physicians, I choose the one entitled *Otorinolarinologija za studente medicine i stomatologije* (Otorhinolaryngology for Medical Students and Dental Medicine Students), published in 1991 by Školska knjiga from Zagreb and edited by Professors Ivo Padovan, Franjo Kosoković, Mihovil Pansini and Željko Poljak. It should be noted that not only faculty members of the Zagreb University School of Medicine and School of Dental Medicine, but also those from Rijeka, Split, Osijek, Banja Luka, Tuzla, Sarajevo and Prishtina were actively engaged in writing the book. Foreword was written by Professor Mihovil Pansini and Introduction by Professor Ivo Padovan. I emphasize it not only to point out that they both were ENT specialists from our Hospital, but to show that their contributions are as actual today for presenting concisely the history of Croatian otorhinolaryngology, the development of ENT at our Hospital, and

the importance of this medical specialty for general practitioners. Professor Pansini writes about the continuity of ENT textbooks in Croatia until 1991, i.e. a new textbook by our ENT specialists appeared approximately at ten-year intervals, as dictated by the development of ENT worldwide. In his opinion, students use to keep the books they learn from, so the book turns to a book-memo for general practitioners. In his text, Professor Padovan emphasizes some other, highly relevant facts, e.g., that 20% to 30% of patients presenting to their general practitioners are ENT patients, adults and children with impaired hearing, patients with malignant diseases submitted to reconstructive procedures, patients having sustained traffic accidents, where head injuries account for 50% of all traffic injuries, etc. Thus, they both underline that good knowledge of ENT methodology is necessary for successful management of all these lesions. Professor Pansini stresses good knowledge of diagnostic, therapeutic and information technology. He intriguingly explains that without these skills and knowledge, the ENT specialist “will feel as if being deprived of the sight, hands, memory and even reasoning. Such fusion has unnecessarily been foreseen to become depersonalized and dehumanized; on the contrary, one half supports the other and they grow together.”<sup>1</sup> Now, after twenty years of this ‘fusion’, not only in Croatian medicine, it would be interesting to see whether or not the integration of technology and medicine has been as successful in practice!? Professor Padovan has given a brief but clear description of the development of Croatian otorhinolaryngology as an independent specialty from the very beginning, having become part of the world otorhinolaryngology as early as between the two world wars.

In 21 book chapters, the contributing authors have encompassed all ENT fields, with “some advice for practicing physicians” added to some topics by Professor Željko Poljak, thus confirming the statement by

Professors Padovan and Pansini that it is not just a textbook for students but also for physicians. We do hope that such a design of textbooks will continue stimulate the authors and the editors because this textbook still offers a number of interesting issues and

topics not only for ENT specialists but also for other medical specialists and dental medicine doctors.

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### Reference

1. PANSINI M. Predgovor. In: PADOVAN I, *et al.*, editors. Otorinolaringologija za studente medicine i stomatologije. Zagreb: Školska knjiga, 1991; p. XIII.