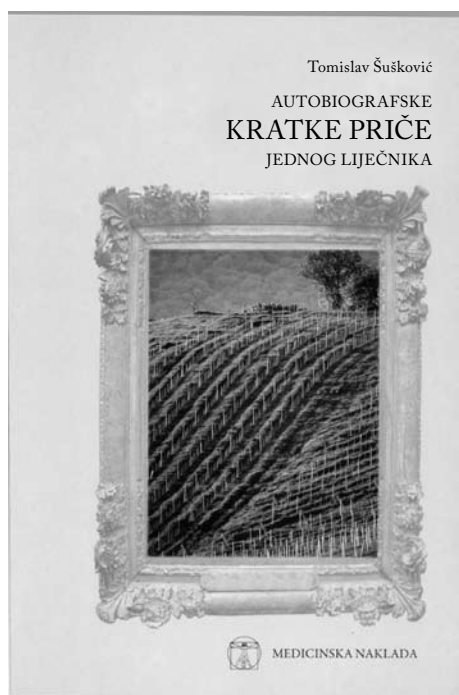


ON NOTABLE BOOKS IN OUR HISTORY



Assist. Prof. Tomislav Šušković, MD, PhD, died last month, at the age of 83. His book entitled *Autobiografske kratke priče jednog liječnika* appeared in 2008, published by Medicinska naklada. In his long-standing, interesting and demanding career, he wrote many professional and scientific papers, was coauthor of professional books, and embarked upon writing this book when he was retired in 1996. The book contains twenty-seven short stories divided into four sections: Short Stories from Doctor's Office; Stories from My Native Soil; Stories about Love; and Stories from Sljeme. The first section, Stories from Doctor's Office,

reveals that Tomislav Šušković, a physician, had never separated his deep understanding for people from his professional work. It is only a good physician that can write the following sentence, in fact a conclusion of the story entitled *Tricky Diagnosis*: "But, people frequently lock their heart just when it is most necessary to open it". Although Assist. Prof. Šušković worked long as a physician, internist, head of the Department of Intensive Medicine at our Clinical Department of Medicine, he had never failed to observe the individual as a person, not just a patient, and it was his major virtue.

In the second section, *Stories from My Native Soil*, along with nice stories about family – father, mother and uncles, the author describes the hard side of life experienced by his generation, including poverty, famine, and all misery and distress associated with such a reality.

The modern family stories about love, about Sljeme (Assist. Prof. Šušković was active as a mountaineer) are, just like stories about patients, comprehensible to our generations, and even to the young ones and those yet to come; however, irrespective of our current circumstances, I am not sure that we can really understand and comprehend what famine is. Therefore, it was only understandable to Assist. Prof. Šušković who had experienced it; that is why he dedicated his story to the old woman who had given him an apple to thank him, and that is why nothing similar can be found anywhere else.

With his stories, Assist. Prof. Šušković as a physician and storyteller reminds us, as with humble apples, of the genuine truths and delights that we have forgotten in our hurried and complicated everyday life.

Tanja Sušec