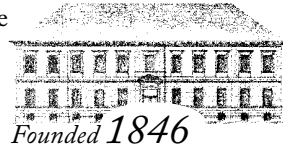


Sestre milosrdnice

University Hospital



HISTORICAL REVIEW

In 1901, i.e. just a hundred years ago, a note on the 500th laparotomy performed by Dr. Teodor Wickerhauser, appeared in the news section of *Liečnički vjestnik*. The note is presented below to illustrate how simply and modestly the physicians of our Hospital celebrated this event.

The reports published in *Liečnički vjestnik* from 1897 till 1901 presented, on a yearly basis, data on every hundred of laparotomies performed, so it was no big news for the medical public of the time. However, they must have admired Dr. Teodor Wickerhauser just as we do today, a hundred years later, because during a single decade (having been appointed head doctor and head of the Department of Surgery in 1890) he succeeded in establishing a department comparable with international centers according to the type and quality of operative procedures. Numerous papers of his disciples and coworkers, published in the first half of the 20th century, witness his high reputation as founder of Croatian surgery, while the little note below simply confirms that Dr. Wickerhauser belonged to those great men who received not only due recognition of their achieve-

ments but much more than this, i.e. sincere respect and loyalty from their followers and coworkers.

"The 500th laparotomy. On October 1, 1901, Head Doctor T. Wickerhauser performed the 500th laparotomy at his department in Sestre milosrdnice Hospital in Zagreb. Upon completion of the procedure, Dr. von Čačković briefly emphasized the importance of the event, described Wickerhauser's merits for the development of surgery and education of young physicians in Croatia, and wished him to continue his excellent and successful work for years more. In his reply, Dr. Wickerhauser outlined the development of abdominal surgery, only admitting as his merit the fact that he had not always been enthusiastic about each and every so-called advancement in the field, and expressed gratitude to his assistants. On October 4, 1901, quite a number of physicians from Zagreb, twenty-five of them, all Wickerhauser's closest friends and admirers, met for a friendly companionship at the Austrian Emperor's Inn, to honor their worthy surgeon and to spend a nice evening in his company."

Tanja Sušec