

ON NOTABLE BOOKS IN OUR HISTORY

Professor Vladimir Hudolin is one of the most prolific writers among physicians and that is one of the reasons for his books being presented frequently in this section. This time, we present the book entitled *Mala enciklopedija alkoholizma* (Small Encyclopedia of Alcoholism), published by the Panorama journalistic-publishing company from Zagreb in 1965. This pocket edition has 509 pages with an appendix at the end (19 figures in total). In the Foreword, Professor Hudolin explains how and why he embarked upon the idea to write such a book. I do not know whether Professor Hudolin was familiar with Claude Bernard's thought cited in the Historical Review in this issue¹; perhaps Professor Šercer communicated it to him during their conversation or discussion, since they worked at our Hospital at about the same time. However, it seems that Professor Hudolin knew the principle that «... the knowledge transferred to the others should not overburden but reinforce their intelligence».

Professor Hudolin says that collaboration with volunteers from different professions and with different interests is of utmost importance in the field of alcoholism, and that all of them can find in this book «the basic terminology and explanation of various problems related to alcoholism»². He insists on the terms be explained in a simple and convenient way because the main objective of the book is to provide initial orientation in the field². This book, or better to say handbook, tackles all the main aspects of alcoholism, e.g., what is alcoholism; who is alcoholic; alcoholism across the world; renowned alcoholologists from Croatia and the world; history of alcoholism in Croatia and in the world; prevention, treatment and rehabilitation; all these topics are found in this book, ending with historical photos from the Center for the Study and Control of Alcoholism established at the then Depart-



ment of Neurology and Psychiatry, Dr Mladen Stojanović Hospital. These original photos show patients and their therapists included in therapeutic programs, now representing precious documents on the Center activities.

Besides its historical value, today this book can also serve as an excellent example of a publication steering and informing all medical and non-medical professionals, as well as patients on alcoholism as a serious social problem. This printed edition of the book should therefore be supplemented by its electronic version, including data updating, to continue fighting against alcoholism.

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References

1. Sušec T. Historical review. Acta Clin Croat. 2017;56:369.
2. Hudolin V. Mala enciklopedija alkoholizma. Zagreb: Panorama, 1965. (in Croatian)