

Scenes of Medical Life of Sibiu in the 18th Century

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Abstract: *During the entire Middle Ages, Sibiu had in the Romanian territory incontestable priorities in many areas. One of the most important fields which had a real priority was the medicine, adopted very early in this Romanian city. The 18th century, a very important century in the entire evolution of the country, marks a very important moment in the development of Sibiu – the county seat of Transylvania, which had become in 1668-1691 a part of Austrian Empire. In Sibiu the medical life begins its journey to modernity, to the science and the art of medicine. The barbers, the surgeons, the house doctors are replaced with graduates of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Vienna, or other important university centres of Europe. In 1755, the first medical school in Transylvania begins its activity; known as the “University” or the “Academy” of Cluj, this institution will become soon the Lyceum Regium, in which activates a Medical-surgical School. The medical practice is accredited in 1786, the year when in Cluj and Sibiu appear the first schools for midwifery nursing. The modern and humanitarian reforms inspired by the politics of Vienna during the Teresian and Josephin era (1740-1790) influence a lot the medical life, by organising the official medical staff. The majority of graduated doctors are Transylvanian Saxons (Michael Neustädter, Andreas Wolff, etc.), but, in time, due to the indulgent regime of Sibiu, the first Romanian and Hungarian doctors also appear, like Ioan Piuariu Molnar and Sámuel Köléseri. After 1739-1742, the military doctors of Sibiu will complete the staff. The military medicine will have a separate activity after the moment when Sibiu becomes the head office of the most important Austrian garrison in Transylvania. Another important aspect is the relatively large number of pharmacies in city, including a military pharmacy.*

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