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## Public Health in the East Voivodeships of the Second Polish Republic

### Zdrowie publiczne na wschodzie województw II Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej

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#### Streszczenie

Artykuł opisuje stan zdrowia publicznego we wschodnich województwach Polski w okresie międzywojennym. Wskazuje na wpływ warunków życia na stan zdrowia publicznego. Omawia znaczenie chorób zakaźnych i społecznych, sposoby zapobiegania im oraz aktywność instytucji medycznych.

**Słowa kluczowe:** zdrowie publiczne, wschodnia Polska, okres międzywojenny w Polsce

#### Summary

The article describes the state of public health in the eastern voivodeships of the Second Polish Republic; reveals the impact of life conditions on public health. The author points out spread of infectious and social diseases; covers activities on their prevention and decrease; characterizes activities of established medical institutions.

**Keywords:** public health, eastern voivodeships, the Second Polish Republic

West Belarus belonged to the Second Polish Republic (proclaimed on November 11, 1918) pursuant to the Treaty of Riga (between Russia and Poland, 1921). The administrative-territorial division, accepted in Poland, was established there: voivodeships, powiats (counties), gminas (communes). West Belarus included Nowogródek (Novgorodok) Voivodeship, Polesie Voivodeship, the greater part of Vilnius and Białystok Voivodeships that made (1931) 23.1% of the territory and 10.5% of the population of Poland (85% of which lived in the countryside)<sup>1</sup>.

In the considered time period, local medical administration was formed according to the territorial division. Thus, the departments of public health were founded in the created directorates of voivodeships in March 1921, and the office of a “powiat doctor” at powiat starosty (county administration) was established. For example,

such department of Nowogródek Voivodeship Directorate comprised the head — a doctor (G. Hrzanowski, 1921–1927; Z. Domanski, 1927–1930; E. Machiulevich, 1930–1933; L. Blakhushevski, 1933–1936; A. Zhurakovski, 1937–1939), medical and pharmaceutical inspectors, 4 office workers<sup>2</sup>.

General management and control over the activity of the state and territorial institutions concerning public health as well as medical, sanitary, and pharmaceutical problems was the responsibility of the local medical administration<sup>3</sup>. Later, due to reorganization of the central

<sup>1</sup> *Mały rocznik statystyczny 1939*, Warszawa 1939, s. 11–13, 254, 255, 296, 298.

<sup>2</sup> *The state archive of the Grodno area*, fund 551, inventory 1, file 1493, sheet 97; *ibidem*, f. 551, i. 1, f. 1559, s. 11, 23–38; *ibidem*, f. 551, i. 2, f. 6, s. 11; G. Chrzanowski: *Historia organizacji Polskich władz sanitarnych na kresach*, „Lekarz Polski”, 1926, nr 5, s. 6–9.

<sup>3</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 7, s. 3, 18; *ibidem*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 38, s. 362; *The state archive of the Grodno area*, f. 551, i. 1, f. 1482, s. 6–22; *Statut organizacyjny urzędu wojewódzkiego Nowogródzkiego*, „Nowogródzki dziennik wojewódzki”, 1931, nr 32, s. 260–262, 279–282.

institutions some structural changes in the local medical administration occurred. In 1924 the Ministry of Public Health (founded on December 13, 1918) was liquidated and its responsibilities were shared by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and in 1932 (because of economic crisis) they were completely assigned to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. The same year, the departments of employment, social protection and health — headed by a doctor — were established at the directorates of voivodeships (1932)<sup>4</sup>.

The elimination of epidemics in the early 1920s (in 1922 incidence of epidemic typhus in Nowogródek Voivodeship was 52.9, in Polesie Voivodeship — 67.7 per 10,000 people, and that of relapsing fever — 53.4 and 148.8 correspondingly) was obtained, first of all, due to extreme measures undertaken by the state. Thus, on the Initiative of the Supreme Emergency Commissariat for Epidemic Control (operated in 1920–1923) sanitary cordons were created in places of migration flows of refugees and repatriates. For example, in Nowogródek Voivodeship a staging facility was opened at the railway station in Stolbtsy (Stolbce) and — with the help of the League of Nations — a repatriation facility was established at the railway station in Baranovichi (Baranowicze). Decontamination of the population, disinfection of things, inoculations were done there. Vaccinating centers, bath stations (Grodno, Lida, Pruzhany (Prużana), bacteriological centers in Baranovichi were also formed with the same purpose. Besides, temporary medical centers with contagious isolation wards where repatriates could stay up to 5 days were opened in a number of towns (Grodno, Lida, Luninets (Luniniec). A repatriation facility was established in Mołodechno (Mołodeczno) at the motorway.

Supreme Emergency Commissariat for Epidemic Control played the main role in creation of dedicated hospitals. As many as 1100 epidemic hospital beds were organized within 1921–1922 in Nowogródek Voivodeship only, and the same number of hospital beds for repatriates in Baranovichi. Later, the majority of Supreme Emergency Commissariat hospitals were reorganized into the state-regulated hospitals. State hospitals made 16 of 20 (88.1% of all hospital beds) in Nowogródek Voivodeship, 21 of 24 (85.4 % of all hospital beds) in Polesie Voivodeship in the middle of 1923<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> *Dwadzieścia lat publicznej służby zdrowia w Polsce odrodzonej (1918–1938)*, Warszawa 1939.

<sup>5</sup> G. Chrzanowski: *Historia...; Sprawozdanie o stanie zdrowotnym Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej oraz o działalności władz i instytucji zdrowia publicznego w roku 1923*, Warszawa 1925, s. 40–49, 112.

Medical intervention only (revealing, registration, isolation, hospitalization, disinfection, inoculations) stabilized but did not eradicate the potential threat of parasitic typhus expansion<sup>6</sup>. Thus, in Polesie Voivodeship, the incidence of typhus fever in 1928 made 1.0, of abdominal typhoid — 1.8, and in 1938 — 4.0 and 1.5 per 10 thousand of population accordingly<sup>7</sup>. It should be mentioned that the incidence of parasitic typhus in 1938 in Nowogródek, Polesie and Vilnius Voivodeships remained the highest in Poland. Besides, epidemic outbreaks of these diseases occurred regularly in rural areas<sup>8</sup>.

It is also worth mentioning that during the Inter-War Period, the sanitary service was at the stage of development. It was in operation only in some cities. Thus, in 1920s, a sanitary department was functioning at *Magistrat Miasta Grodno* (local municipal government)<sup>9</sup>. In the early 1930s, in the structure of several newly opened out-patient hospitals — Health Centers — Sanitary Bureaus were organized (Baranovichi, Brest (Brześć), Pinsk)<sup>10</sup>. The number of the sanitary personnel practically did not change, in 1925 there were 2 public health physicians and 4 disinfectors, and in 1936 — the same number of doctors and 11 health inspectors in Nowogródek Voivodeship<sup>11</sup>. In 1930s, Food Control Laboratories<sup>12</sup> functioned only in some cities (Białystok, Brest, Grodno). In order to eradicate the outbreaks of epidemic, the anti-epidemic teams (disinfecter, hygienist, disinfection device) were formed and sent to the foci

<sup>6</sup> *The archives of new files in Warsaw Fund of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs in Warsaw*, f. 509, s. 1–23; *ibidem*, f. 816, s. 2–34; St. Adamowiczowa: *Dur plamisty i dur powrotny w latach 1919–1924*, „Warszawskie Czasopismo Lekarskie”, 1925, nr 7, s. 325–326.

<sup>7</sup> *The archives of new files in Warsaw Fund of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs in Warsaw*, f. 509, s. 1–23, *Sprawozdanie o stanie zdrowotnym Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej oraz o działalności władz i instytucji zdrowia publicznego w latach 1928–1929*, Warszawa 1931, s. 25, 32–33.

<sup>8</sup> M. Poznański: *Dur brzuszny na Wileńszczyźnie*, „Zdrowie Publiczne”, 1939, nr 3, s. 115–124; W. Prażmowski: *Zwalczanie duru plamistego na terenie województwa wileńskiego*, „Warszawskie Czasopismo Lekarskie”, 1939, nr 10, s. 198–199; *ibidem*, nr 12, s. 236–239.

<sup>9</sup> *Przegląd statystyczny m. Grodna za lata 1922 i 1923*, Grodno 1925, s. 116–119, 121–126, 137.

<sup>10</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 8, s. 2; *Rocznik Lekarski Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej na 1936 rok*, Warszawa 1936.

<sup>11</sup> *The archives of new files...*, f. 816, s. 2–34; D. Kieżewicz: *Organizacja pomocy lekarskiej w województwie Nowogródzkim i działalność tej organizacji w 1925 roku* „Lekarz Polski”, 1927, nr 9, s. 9–17; *Rocznik Lekarski ...*

<sup>12</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 14, s. 1, 2; *Sprawozdanie o stanie zdrowotnym Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej oraz o działalności władz i instytucji zdrowia publicznego w latach 1934–1935*, Warszawa 1935, Tab. 15, 19.

TAB. 1. Residential conditions of some cities in Nowogródek Voivodeship in 1928\*

NUMBER OF HOUSES (IN %)	CITIES		
	Baranovichi	Nowogródek	Lida
Wooden	94.0	90.0	86.0
Single-room	36.0	42.0	35.0
Average number of inhabitants per one room	3.3	2.9	2.7
Electrified	47.0	40.0	44.0
With dust-bin	61.0	63.0	80.0
Without toilet room	5.2	21.7	11.2
Covered with straw	6.1	1.9	14.0

\*Z. Domański: *Jak wyglądają lokale w miastach województwa Nowogródzkiego*, „Lekarz Polski”, 1928, nr 9, s. 201–203

of infection. In Vilnius Voivodeship there were 2 such anti-epidemic teams, and in 1938 — 7<sup>13</sup>.

The sanitary functions were assigned to powiat doctors and district doctors who were also responsible for a variety of other tasks<sup>14</sup>. In this context, doctor D. Kezevich marked: “The struggle against infectious diseases, industry and trade, school, home and premise, drinking water, sewage disposal, statistics and sanitary education, all these remain without a responsible officer, without due sanitary attention”<sup>15</sup>.

It is worth mentioning that sanitary-anti-epidemic activities were funded mainly from the state or local budget<sup>16</sup>. However other sources were involved as well. The Red Cross<sup>17</sup> was engaged in the sanitary education of the population, the formation and support of anti-epidemic teams. During 1936–1939 Polesie branch of Polish Hygiene Society operated in Brest. It was engaged in popularization of sanitary and hygienic knowledge (travelling exhibits, lectures, courses, publication of brochures)<sup>18</sup>. Besides, there were also private bacterio-

logical laboratories. For example, 7 such laboratories were in Nowogródek Voivodeship in 1936<sup>19</sup>.

Unfavourable sanitary communal conditions were a principal cause of a parasitic typhus prevalence<sup>20</sup>. Thus, in 1928, of 9 cities in Nowogródek Voivodeship only 2 had bathhouses, 1 — public water supply, 2 — sewage disposal transport<sup>21</sup>. As much as 80% of streets in Baranovichi were not paved in 1934<sup>22</sup>. The data presented in TAB. 1 specify unsatisfactory character of living conditions.

Unfavourable sanitary conditions at schools must be mentioned as well. Thus, in 1928 as much as 57% of schools had no washstands in Nowogródek Voivodeship, 38% had no toilet rooms, 36% — wells, 2.4% — hardened floors<sup>23</sup>.

Highly important became measures on sanitary-and-hygienic improvement, namely: paving and maintenance of streets, organizing markets and slaughter-houses, arranging public bathhouses, providing water supply and sewage. To this end, several sanitary orders were made: on preservation of cleanliness in houses and streets (1922, 1932), in shops and public places (1923), in hairdresser's

<sup>13</sup> *The archives of new files...*, f. 504, s. 70–79; W. Prażmowski: *Zwalczanie...*, nr 10, s. 198–199; *ibidem*, nr 12, s. 236–239.

<sup>14</sup> *The archives of new files...*, f. 482, s. 1–13; *ibidem*, f. 504, s. 70–79; Z. Domański: *Higiena miast Nowogródzkiej*, „Zdrowie”, 1930, nr 1, s. 15–33; *Regulamin dla samorządowych rejonowych lekarzy sanitarnych na terenie powiatów województwa wileńskiego*, „Zdrowie”, 1930, nr 5, s. 244–246.

<sup>15</sup> D. Kieziewicz: *Zagadnienia sanitarne na kresach*, „Lekarz Polski”, 1927, nr 8, s. 9–12.

<sup>16</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 151, s. 1–4, 40–46; *The archives of new files...*, f. 491, s. 1–76, 87–107; *ibidem*, f. 504, s. 70–79.

<sup>17</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 2156, i. 1, f. 195, s. 48; *The state archive of the Grodno area*, f. 111, i. 1, f. 1, s. 3–187; *Polski Czerwony Krzyż: Oddział w Baranowiczach: Sprawozdanie za rok 1931*, Warszawa 1932.

<sup>18</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 2, i. 2, f. 1570, s. 1; *Spra-*

*wozдание z działalności Oddziału Poleskiego Polskiego Towarzystwa Higienicznego za rok 1937*, „Zdrowie Publiczne”, 1938, nr 3, s. 302–303; *Sprawozdanie z działalności Oddziału Poleskiego Polskiego Towarzystwa Higienicznego za rok 1938*, „Zdrowie Publiczne”, 1939, nr 3, s. 237–239.

<sup>19</sup> *The archives of new files...*, f. 816, s. 2–34.

<sup>20</sup> *The archives of new files in Warsaw Fund of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs in Warsaw*, f. 509, s. 1–23; *ibidem*, f. 787, s. 3–40; *ibidem*, f. 816, s. 2–34; W. Prażmowski: *Zwalczanie...*, nr 12, s. 236–239.

<sup>21</sup> Z. Domański: *Higiena...*

<sup>22</sup> D. Kieziewicz: *Uzdrowotnienie miasta Baranowicze*, „Zdrowie Publiczne”, 1934, nr 12, s. 1075–1077.

<sup>23</sup> Z. Domański: *Smutne cyfry*, „Lekarz Polski”, 1928, nr 3, s. 58–59.

salons (1922, 1935), in schools (1930), at railway and bus stations (1932); on building and using wells (1920), on using water and sewage devices (1922); on control over manufacture and sales of foodstuffs (1928). It should be mentioned that on the average up to 85% of allocations into public health services was spent on “prevention of diseases”, namely — on realization of the above-named measures<sup>24</sup>.

Since 1929, municipal improvement actions had been started in cities and rural areas<sup>25</sup>. Consequently, during such actions Brest was divided (1935) into areas, the sanitary guardians, elected from the general population who were subordinate to the head of starosty, were established (1933) in order to exercise sanitary control over streets and yards<sup>26</sup>. In 1930s, water supply system and sewage system as well as sewage treatment plant were built in Brest. The Hygiene Society was organized in 1936<sup>27</sup>.

However, in general, the sanitary situation did not change greatly. Thus, in 1938 as much as 62% of food shops, 40% of bakeries, 34% of bathhouses, 30% of hairdresser's salons, 23% of hotels, 40% of meat tests, 30% water tests, 8% of milk tests did not satisfy the sanitary requirements in Polesie Voivodeship<sup>28</sup>. The issue of sanitary education for general populace was rather marginal<sup>29</sup>.

During the period under discussion, the measures against social diseases (trachoma, tuberculosis, venereal diseases) had state-regulated and social character<sup>30</sup>. Patients were identified by specialized independent ambulatory care clinics (the first ones in Nowogródek and Nowogródek Voivodeship — antivenereal, 1923; antiphthisic, 1925; *anti-trachoma*, 1926)<sup>31</sup>. In 1933 as many as 12 antitrachoma, 8 antiphthisic, 3 antivenereal ambulatory care clinics operated in Polesie Voivodeship<sup>32</sup>. Every

two of three such ambulatory care clinics were financed from the district and state budget<sup>33</sup>.

In the late 1920s, new out-patient medical establishments — Health Centres — were opened in several towns (Slonim (Słonim), 1926; Vileika (Wilejka), Glubokoye (Głębokie), 1929)<sup>34</sup>. According to the Charter, their tasks were the organization, coordination and carrying out activities aimed at preservation and improvement of public health, including prevention and revealing of social diseases, medical care with elements of standard medical examination in some population groups (pregnant women, mothers, children), provision of medical assistance<sup>35</sup>. The Health Centres were mainly supported by local authorities and the state (for example, in 1930 as much as 73.5% of allocations from local and 22.7% — from the state budget were spent on these in Nowogródek Voivodeship)<sup>36</sup>. Infrequently, one Health Centre was financed from various sources. Thus, Lida County Health Centre received 25.6% of its allocations from the insurance fund, 22.6% — from *gminas*, 20.8% — from municipal authorities, 16.1% — from the state budget, 14.9% — from the regional council (*sejmik*)<sup>37</sup>.

In 1930s the number of Health Centres had considerably increased (for example, in Polesie Voivodeship there were 4 Health Centres in 1933, and in 1938 — 27)<sup>38</sup>. Health Centres worked according to a territorial principle (one for 8–15 thousand people with the covering radius of 10–15 km)<sup>39</sup>. Each Health Centre was headed by a district doctor. The number of doctors and nurses on the average was similar to the number of structural units<sup>40</sup>. At the same time, in 1938 a half of Health Centres and health localities were not supplied with doctors in Polesie Voivodeship<sup>41</sup>. The majority of Health Centres consisted of three units, namely — antitrachoma, an-

<sup>24</sup> *The archives of new files...*, f. 815, s. 30–32; Z. Domański: *Higiena...; Dwadzieścia lat publicznej służby zdrowia w Polsce odrodzonej...*

<sup>25</sup> *The archives of new files...*, f. 504, s. 70–79; *Dwadzieścia lat publicznej służby zdrowia w Polsce odrodzonej...*

<sup>26</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 33, s. 205; *ibidem*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 60, s. 2–5.

<sup>27</sup> *The archives of new files...*, f. 509, s. 1–23.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibidem*; M. Poznański: *Dur brzuszny...*

<sup>30</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 215, s. 1–3; *The archives of new files...*, f. 504, s. 70–79; *ibidem*, f. 1447, s. 1–5, 65; *ibidem*, f. 1630, s. 2.

<sup>31</sup> *The state archive of the Grodno area*, f. 551, i. 1, f. 1484, s. 6; *ibidem*, f. 551, i. 1, f. 1514, s. 4; D. Kieżewicz: *Organizacja...*

<sup>32</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 21, s. 92–93.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibidem*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 8, s. 2.

<sup>34</sup> *The state archive of the Grodno area*, f. 544, i. 1, f. 15, s. 1–14; M. Zachart: *Nasilenie jaglicy w Polsce w 1927 roku*, „Lekarz Polski”, 1929, nr 3, s. 50–52.

<sup>35</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 125, s. 1–10d.

<sup>36</sup> *Mały rocznik statystyczny 1939...*; *Sprawozdanie o stanie zdrowotnym Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej oraz o działalności władz i instytucji zdrowia publicznego w latach 1928–1929...*

<sup>37</sup> *The state archive of the Grodno area*, f. 551, i. 1, f. 1546, s. 1, 4, 6, 9, 12, 15.

<sup>38</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 21, s. 92–93; *The archives of new files in Warsaw Fund of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs in Warsaw*, f. 509, s. 1–23.

<sup>39</sup> *The state archive of the Grodno area*, f. 551, i. 1, f. 1546, s. 1, 4, 6, 9, 12, 15; A. Wierciński: *Ośrodki zdrowia na Wileńszczyźnie*, „Zdrowie”, 1933, nr 5–6, s. 227–236.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibidem*; *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 126, s. 3, 4.

<sup>41</sup> *The archives of new files...*, f. 509, s. 1–23.

tiphthisic, and antivenereal ambulatory care stations<sup>42</sup>. Thus, in 1933 in Vilnius Voivodeship 85.5% of all consultations in the Health Centres were made for trachoma, 5.5% — for tuberculosis, 3.1% — for venereal diseases<sup>43</sup>. Usually, one room of the rented premises was used as an ambulatory care clinic. Health Centres were poorly equipped (a microscope, scales, quartz lamps)<sup>44</sup>. Besides, even in the exemplary Health Centres (for example, Brest City Centre, 1936), the ambulatory care clinic spent only few hours a day or a week for reception of patients<sup>45</sup>.

To stop the spread of trachoma (in 1928, by the disease incidence, Vilnius and Nowogródek Voivodeships stood third and fourth in Poland and trachoma spread in Vilnius Voivodeship was fearsome: in 1926 — 51, in 1928 — 156 cases per 100 thousand population) the following measures were introduced: compulsory registration of patients (1928), notification of patients and composing the catalogue of patients records by *powiat* doctors; obligatory patients assessment with the assistance of local authorities; annual examination of schoolchildren, children from guardianship institutions and recruits; organization and functioning of anti-epidemic teams<sup>46</sup>.

Tuberculosis was a serious problem as well (for example, in 1930 Pinsk Powiat stood first in Poland by TB morbidity rate)<sup>47</sup>. According to the organization charter, Societies (Nowogródek, 1925, Pinsk, 1931) established *specialized ambulatory care clinics* (Grodno, 1926), organized education of population (TB prophylaxis days — December 1934, Brest; a mobile exhibition, December 2, 1934 — April 1, 1935, Polesie Voivodeship)<sup>48</sup>. Two TB sanatoria (Maloryta (Małoryta), 1924; Novoelnya (Nowojelnia), 1928) were in operation<sup>49</sup>. However, only few

Health Centres in the 1930s performed BCG vaccination, Pirquet's test and *Biernacki's test*, X-ray examination and used quartz treatment<sup>50</sup>. "Antiphthisic Law" draft was prepared only in 1938<sup>51</sup>.

During the considered period (1922), police surveillance over prostitution was established. Civil measures (registration, *powiat* commissions) were taken too. Patients with syphilis also received *Salvarsan* free of charge in the Health Centres, however the agent was still lacking<sup>52</sup>.

Restriction on the sale of strong alcoholic beverages existed in Poland in the years 1920–1931<sup>53</sup>. Struggle against alcoholism had civil regulation (commissions organized by government authorities). Single profile actions aimed at population education (Polesie Voivodeship, December, 1928) were carried out. The first outpatient alcohol clinics (in 1936 in Białystok Voivodeship — 1) were opened<sup>54</sup>.

Mother and Child Protection Centres were established as a structural unit of Health Centres as well. In 1928 there was one (1) such centre in Polesie Voivodeship; in 1938 22 out of the 27 above-mentioned centres were organized at the Health Centres<sup>55</sup>. The above establishments were opened also at the expense of public organizations. Thus, in 1929, 3 out of every 6 Mother and Child Protection Centres in Vilnius Voivodeship were organized by the Union of Working Women<sup>56</sup>. At the same time, they supervised a small number of children and women (for example, in 1933 up to 13% of newborns in Białystok Voivodeship and 2.4% of deliveries in hospitals of Vilnius Voivodeship were observed by the referral of the Mother and Child Protection Centres). Some Health Centres also had places where baby food was dispensed (for example, in 1933 Vilnius Voivodeship had 4, Białystok Voivodeship — 10 such places)<sup>57</sup>.

<sup>42</sup> *The state archive of the Grodno area*, f. 551, i. 1, f. 1546, s. 1, 4, 6, 9, 12, 15; *Sprawozdanie o stanie zdrowotnym Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej oraz o działalności władz i instytucji zdrowia publicznego w latach 1928–1929...*

<sup>43</sup> A. Wierciński: *Akcja zapobiegawcza w zwalczaniu chorób społecznych na terenie województwa wileńskiego*, „Zdrowie Publiczne”, 1935, nr 3, s. 283–289.

<sup>44</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 127, s. 104, 105; *The state archive of the Grodno area*, f. 551, i. 1, f. 1546, s. 1, 4, 6, 9, 12, 15.

<sup>45</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 151, s. 1–4, 40–46.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibidem*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 230, s. 330–331; *The state archive of the Grodno area*, f. 551, i. 1, f. 1554, s. 2–4; L. Rostkowski: *Zwalczanie jaglicy w Woj. Nowogródzkim*, „Klinika Oczna”, 1935, z. 1, s. 188–190; M. Zachart: *Nasilenie jaglicy...*

<sup>47</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 154, s. 327.

<sup>48</sup> *Ibidem*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 212, s. 154; *ibidem*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 218, s. 1; *Rocznik Lekarski Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej na 1936 rok...*

<sup>49</sup> *The archives of new files...*, f. 1447, s. 1–5, 65.

<sup>50</sup> *The state archive of the Grodno area*, f. 551, i. 1, f. 1559, s. 11, 23–38; A. Wierciński: *Akcja zapobiegawcza...*

<sup>51</sup> *Dwadzieścia lat publicznej służby zdrowia w Polsce odrodzonej...*

<sup>52</sup> *The archives of new files...*, f. 509, s. 1–23; *ibidem*, f. 787, s. 3–40; *ibidem*, f. 816, s. 2–34.

<sup>53</sup> *Dwadzieścia lat publicznej służby zdrowia w Polsce odrodzonej...*

<sup>54</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 140, s. 25–28; *ibidem*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 194, s. 37; *The archives of new files...*, f. 480, s. 5–20; *ibidem*, f. 492, s. 2–33.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibidem*, f. 509, s. 1–23; *Sprawozdanie o stanie zdrowotnym Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej oraz o działalności władz i instytucji zdrowia publicznego w latach 1928–1929...*

<sup>56</sup> *The archives of new files...*, f. 504, s. 70–79.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibidem*, f. 786, s. 2–17; A. Wierciński: *Akcja zapobiegawcza...*

Schools were subject to sanitary control of the *powiat* and district doctors, nurses-hygienists (for example, in 1930, there were only 6 nurses in Polesie and Nowogródek Voivodeships, correspondingly)<sup>58</sup>. Only 33.6% of schools and 35.4% of children in Białystok Voivodeship were examined by doctors. Thus 8.3% of the examined children were dirty, 5.4% had pediculosis. Prevalence of diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, tuberculosis, trachoma remained high in children in the 1930s<sup>59</sup>.

Summer children's recreational institutions were opened mainly by social organizations (for example, in 1928 in Polesie Voivodeship they allocated for this purpose 71.2% of their funds)<sup>60</sup>. Gradually, since the appearance of the first institutions (1925) their number increased (thus, there were 10 communes and 1 subcommune in Polesie Voivodeship in 1932, while in 1938 their number equalled 11 and 47, respectively)<sup>61</sup>. However, they covered a small number of children (for example, 6.5% of school-aged children in 1938 in Polesie Voivodeship), although the natural increase remained high (thus, birth rate in Polesie Voivodeship in 1936 made 32.8, death rate

— 15.0 and in Nowogródek Voivodeship 29.1 and 13.7%, respectively)<sup>62</sup>.

A great number of Jews among civilians (for example, in 1937 — 41.6% of all inhabitants of Brest) and medical personnel (thus, in 1936 in Nowogródek Voivodeship up to 70% of chemist's shop employees were Jews) determined some national form of medical care. Local departments of the *Jewish Health Protection Society* operated on the considered territory during the Inter-War Period (Brest), 1922; Baranovichi, 1926)<sup>63</sup>. This Society opened and supported medical institutions — hospitals (Brest having 100, Pinsk — 60, Grodno — 60, Lida — 18 beds), Health Centres (in 1938 in Polesie Voivodeship — 2), ambulatory care clinics (in 1932 in Polesie Voivodeship — 1 antiphthisic clinic, 1 anti-trachoma clinic, 2 Mother and Child Protection Centres). It also organized summer children's recreational institutions (for example, in 1928 700 children in Polesie Voivodeship improved their health there)<sup>64</sup>.

Thus, the presented data undoubtedly promote general understanding of history.

<sup>58</sup> *Sprawozdanie o stanie zdrowotnym Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej oraz o działalności władz i instytucji zdrowia publicznego w latach 1928–1929...*

<sup>59</sup> *The archives of new files...*, f. 509, s. 1–23; *ibidem*, f. 786, s. 2–17; *ibidem*, f. 816, s. 2–34.

<sup>60</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 17, s. 1–23; G.Z. Niemyska-Raczaszkowa: *Poleski wojewódzki komitet kolonii letnich*, „Opieka nad dzieckiem”, 1928, nr 6, s. 443–447.

<sup>61</sup> *The archives of new files in Warsaw Fund of the Ministry of health and social affairs in Warsaw*, f. 471, s. 4; G.Z. Niemyska-Raczaszkowa: *Poleski wojewódzki komitet kolonii letnich...*

<sup>62</sup> *The archives of new files...*, f. 509, s. 1–23; *ibidem*, f. 816, s. 2–34; *ibidem*, f. 821, s. 1–37.

<sup>63</sup> *Rocznik Lekarski Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej na 1936 rok...; Sprawozdanie o stanie zdrowotnym Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej oraz o działalności władz i instytucji zdrowia publicznego w roku 1923...*

<sup>64</sup> *The state archive of the Brest area*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 8, s. 2; *ibidem*, f. 1, i. 5, f. 17, s. 1–23; *The archives of new files...*, f. 509, s. 1–23; *Rocznik Lekarski Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej na 1936 rok...*