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Health service at mining and metallurgical units of a Western Mining District in 1817-1870

SUMMARY

Mining and siderurgy industry within Kingdom of Poland of the XIX century is a well known subject, commonly described in many publications and scientific conferences. There is but a significant part of the problem that is practically unknown and never spoken about in any scientific research. This refers to the medical service working at the mills.

Medical care needed good organization and even better managing board which in practice made various results. Conflict of competence between doctors, quarrels of administration and medical personnel about financial abuse came every day. Despite of all that medical service was working more than effective providing a good level of medical care. It was all functioning thanks to Mining Core institution connecting miners, ironmasters of national mills giving them free healthcare, salary during sick days called "krankszychy" and pensions. All social benefits for the Mining Core members were financed by health premiums and deposited in "brotherhood saving banks".

Organization of medical services in national mines in the Polish Kingdom were dependent of entity managing that industry branch in a period of time. It could be the National Interior Committee, Bank of Poland or the Mining Department. It's those institutions that that gave directions to the mining directors having in their jurisdiction three mining districts- Eastern, Western and Northern. Directors managed the actions of particular elements of the workers medical service- mine and city doctors, pharmacists, mining hospitals, brotherhood saving banks.

Thanks for the used organization and management XIX century work medicine was capable to maintain high standards as for that time. It all translated to low morbidity of workers caused by accidents and occupational diseases.