

## Stanisława Staszica związki z medycyną

### Stanisław Staszic's connections with medicine

#### SUMMARY

Stanisław Staszic (1755-1826), a key representative of the Age of Enlightenment in Poland, was also a member of the educational authorities of the Duchy of Warsaw (since 1807). He continued to work in the educational authorities under the Kingdom of Poland, in the years 1815-1826, ultimately reaching the rank of minister of state. In the years 1808-1826, Staszic also presided over the Towarzystwo Królewskie Warszawskie Przyjaciół Nauk [Royal Warsaw Society of the Friends of Learning].

Ever since he began to engage in scholarly writing in 1779, Staszic insisted on the need to raise health standards in Poland, a topic to which he gave expression especially in the treatise *Uwagi nad życiem Jana Zamoyskiego* [Remarks on the life of Jan Zamoyski] (1787) and in his 1789-1805 travelogues (published in 1831). He believed that Poland should have a larger population in order to withstand the attempts to subdue Poland made by the partitioning powers, Austria, Prussia and Russia, and that in turn required health standards to be raised in the country.

In his capacity as administrator for education, Staszic reformed the secondary school system in the Duchy of Warsaw, and also was largely responsible for the establishment of two tertiary-level educational institutions, which he was subsequently put in charge of: a school of law and administration (1807) and a school of medicine (1809). The two schools later became departments of the University of Warsaw, which Staszic proceeded to set up in the years 1816-1818.

The establishment of the Medical School came largely in response to the experiences during the period of the Napoleonic wars, which saw a great number of people wounded and suffering from epidemics. Staszic ensured that the instructors at the school would get additional training at the best medical schools abroad. He also enabled them to take part in the activities of learned societies, namely the Towarzystwo Królewskie Warszawskie Przyjaciół Nauk.

With his knowledge of many foreign universities and learned societies, Staszic played a most auspicious role in the development of medicine in Poland. In Warsaw, he was able to solicit the best physicians to teach in the medical school. He also reformed the university in Cracow (Kraków), as a result of which the university's medical department soon became an important establishment involved in the training of professional medical staff.