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Z dziejów aptekarstwa bydgoskiego – „Apteka pod Niedźwiedziem”

From the history of Bydgoszcz pharmacies: “Apteka pod Niedźwiedziem”

SUMMARY

The article presents the development of Bydgoszcz pharmacies, whose beginnings date back to the Middle Ages. The commercial character of the city played a significant role in this development, as it had been an important communications hub for centuries. Over the years, old stands of spice and oil sellers were effectively supplanted by pharmacies. In Bydgoszcz, secular pharmacies were older than monastic ones. The first mention of a Jesuit pharmacy in Bydgoszcz appeared quite late. The reason could have been that Jesuit orders were placed in the near Toruń or Grudziądz.

Beginning from the 17th century, Bydgoszcz began to lose its significance, ravaged by successive Swedish occupations and numerous plagues. In the 18th century it lived through natural disasters – floods and epidemics – and reconstruction of its human potential was possible only in the second half of the century.

As a result of the first partition of Poland, Bydgoszcz found itself under Prussian rule and, consequently, Prussian regulations and laws were in force, also those concerning pharmacies. Paradoxically, the Prussian rule turned out to be beneficial for Bydgoszcz that was gaining a German, big-city character, although its bourgeoisie consisted mainly of the Germans, who were owners also of Bydgoszcz pharmacies.

“Apteka pod Niedźwiedziem” was one of the oldest pharmacies in Bydgoszcz. During the 2nd World War it was impounded by the German authorities and, unfortunately, we lack information about its functioning during that time. The reason of its closure after nationalization also remains unknown. Reports about the pharmacy’s fittings and equipment, prepared by state officials raise serious doubts. The analysis of the history of “Apteka pod Niedźwiedziem” poses many questions that cannot be explicitly answered.

Analecta – Studia i Materiały z Dziejów Nauki

[Analecta – Studies and Materials on the History of Science]

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