



The first pharmacy in Vranje with the educated pharmacist and its development

Prva apoteka u Vranju sa diplomiranim farmaceutom i njen dalji razvoj

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Introduction

Health conditions in Vranje during the Ottoman rule were similar to the situation in the rest of Serbia at that time with poor organized health services. People asked for help for the treatment of "hakims", barbers, doctors and self-educated folk healers. In the stores that were out of control, in addition to other goods, many medicines, raw materials for making medicines and poisons could be procured from Greece and Turkey. In the 20th century people could still remember various balms, splash, teas, syrups and "madzun" that could be bought in the shops of that time. At the beginning of the 19th century in Vranje, as well as in Serbia, the only help for the sick was provided by Greek self-taught healers, "kaloijatri". There was a self-taught folk healer Mika Stošić who became known in Vranje as "hakim" Mika. "Hakim" Mika died in Constantinople in 1854, where he had gone in order to solve the national status for the Municipality of Vranje¹. He conveyed his knowledge to his sons Zafir and Dimitrije. Dimitrije was successfully practicing medicine for ten years after his father's death, until a prominent Turk child who was treated by Dimitrije died. Fearing that he would be blamed for the child's death, "hakim Dimitrać" as he was called, committed suicide¹. A Turkish medical assistant Naum Marković, who graduated from Medical School in Constantinople, came to Vranje in 1862¹. Being a medical assistant (at that time a Turkish title "felcer" was used for this educational degree), he had the right to examine and treat patients and to prepare and sell medicines. In his two-floor house he opened an outpatient department and a pharmacy store where he prepared various preparations in the

form of decocts and infusions and many others. Felcer Naum regularly went to Thessaloniki and Constantinople in order to supply his shop with the necessary materials and drugs of herbal, animal and mineral origin.

The aim of this paper was to present the historical development of the first community pharmacy in Vranje with the focus on its personnel, legal conditions and pharmacy regulations from the second half of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century.

The method of historical analysis was employed. Manual documentary analysis of original sources and desk research analysis from the secondary sources were conducted.

Health conditions before the foundation of the first pharmacy in Vranje

Development and significance of pharmacy in the health service in Vranje after the liberation from the Turks should not be considered separately from the economic, social and political conditions in Vranje in the late 19th and early 20th century. In the last year of Ottoman Empire in January 1877 in Vranje came a Greek named Dr. Atanasije Kujas, Athene's pupil with less experience gained in Constantinople and Jedrene^{1,2}. He was the only graduate doctor of medicine in that region. After the liberation from Ottoman Empire, he remained there to work as a physician until his retirement in 1902¹. After a year he died in Vranje. The people of Vranje acknowledged him for his devoted contribution in 1897 when was elected to be a mayor of the Municipality of Vranje¹. Only for a while between May, 1 and Oct, 27 1882, he didn't work in Pčinje Canton because was

appointed to be a physician for the neighbouring Poljanički Canton and he worked in Vladičin Han².

After the liberation from the Turks on January, 31 1878, the economic and cultural development of Vranje and its suburbs was slow. Specific topographic position of Vranje district as a crossroad of people and culture has always attracted numerous invaders. The frequent territorial division of Vranje district left serious political and economic consequences on the already impoverished city of Vranje. According to the decision of the Congress of Berlin a territorially unified space of Vranje Municipality was divided into two parts: Vranje belonged to Serbia, while a large part of Vranje district remained behind the boundaries which formed the Preševo "kaza" until 1912. After the liberation of Vranje from the Turks handicrafts, commerce, education and culture were experiencing major progress. The vicinity of Macedonia, Greece and Bulgaria contributed to overall economic and cultural progress. Trade relations into Vranje were started on the initiative of reputable retailers and Vranje became a city of craftsmen, merchants, and innkeepers.

Opening of the first hospital pharmacy in Vranje

The first hospital in Vranje was open in a large Turkish-style building called "Suleiman Bey's Sarai" when General Belimarković's troops came to liberate Vranje. The district physician in the hospital was Dr. Franja Kopša, Slovenian, who worked as a military doctor in General Belimarković's army in late 1877¹. The district department of Vranje sent two letters to the Ministry of Internal Affairs informing it of the currently poor state of health services in Vranje³. The first letter was sent on July 18, 1878, with a request that the Ministry of Internal Affairs appoint a regional physician in Vranje, who would take care of people's health and treat some of the remaining cattle, in accordance with the "Nastavlenije za okružne lekare i fizikuse"¹ from 1839, which stipulated that the regional physician was required to perform veterinary services in addition to treating people⁴. Six days later, the District Chief, Mr. Brzaković D. sent another letter to the Ministry of Internal Affairs informing it of the status quo in the only existing pharmacy in Vranje, which was not in accordance with the applicable paragraphs of the Pharmacies and Pharmacists' Act from 1865³. For the only existing felcer Naum's pharmacy, the district physician said that "the pharmacy left in town since the Ottoman period was so messy and unequipped with the basic necessities, that it was barely possible to get the most ordinary items; including those at high prices. The doctor is a man who is unwell prepared for the job, he often does not know how to put together/mix the ingredients given to him in the prescriptions by military doctors ..."³. Dr. Franja Kopša was appointed for the district physician, and also the chief of the district hospital on February 2, 1879³. On December 22, 1881 the Garrison Hospital became the first hospital in Vranje District¹. In the hospital courtyard, in one of the two adjacent restored buildings a small temporary hospital pharmacy was

placed so that drugs that Dr. Kopša found in the Military Hospital could be supplied⁵. Medications were used for inpatient and outpatient treatment. The entire population of Vranje was supplied by the drugs from the hospital pharmacy because there were still no city pharmacies with trained pharmacists.

The hospital pharmacy worked until the hospital was moved to the new building and the first modern private pharmacy was opened in 1883¹. The number of staff that worked in the military hospital pharmacies was in coordination with the needs of the population, therefore; for instance, among the survived in 1878 was only a pharmacy assistant, a pharmacist Steva Varjačić, who worked there until 1881⁶. At the time, there were nine medical doctors and physicians in Serbia who were required to respect the rules introduced by the Ordinance for District and Municipal Physicians "Nastavlenija za okružne lekare i fizikuse" on August 21, 1839⁷.

Three unsuccessful attempts to open the pharmacy in Vranje

The autonomy called "Hattisherif" which was acquired in 1830 created favorable conditions for the complete organization of health services in Serbia, and when the Sretenje Constitution was established in 1835, attention paid to the organization of health services started to grow. By the Decree passed on the basis of the Constitution health care for people was provided as well as founding of schools for surgeons and midwives, veterinary doctors and pharmacists^{7,8}.

There were also two significant laws passed by Knez Miloš in 1836. It was decided that doctors should treat poor people for free, and in 1837 the sale of medicines was prohibited without the written permission from the police who were to obtain these permissions from a trained doctor⁷.

In 1845 it was decided to check all the retail shops in order to forbid selling of any sort of preparations and medicines and all such work was transferred to the pharmacies which were opened at that time. In 1845 the Regulations for Community Pharmacies were adopted (*Pravila za javne apoteke*) as well as for the Managing of the Court Pharmacy (*Pravila o rukovanju i manipulisanju Pravitelstvene apoteke*)⁷. The first real legislation for pharmaceutical activity in relation to the conditions for the establishment of pharmacies was passed by Mihailo Obrenović in 1865 and it was called The Law for Pharmacies and Pharmacists and Keeping Drugs and Poisons (*Zakon za apoteke i apotekare i za držanje i prodavanje lekova i otrova*)⁷. In 1879 The Law Concerning Health Care and Preservation of People's Health (*Zakon o sanitetskoj struci i o čuvanju narodnog zdravlja*) was passed, to be formally accepted only in 1881⁷. According to this Law, the regional physician used to care and submit a report about the work of the pharmacists in the areas over which they had control. The lack of trained pharmacists in the south of Serbia and especially in Vranje was the reason why Vranje had its first two public pharmacies opened only at the end of the 19th century. A year before the opening of the first pharmacy with a trained pharmacist, Vranje

¹ "Ordinance for District and Municipal Physicians"

had 8,291 inhabitants⁹. The Law Concerning Health Care and Preservation of People's Health (*Zakon o sanitetskoj struci i o čuvanju narodnog zdravlja*) stated that the permission to open and run a pharmacy would be issued at the request of a person concerned in places where a pharmacy was a real necessity, in towns and villages with at least 2,000 inhabitants who didn't have a pharmacy⁷.

After the liberation from the Turks (1876–1878) there were additional problems in the organization of health services caused due to the increasing number of population in the liberated districts (Niš, Pirot, Vranje, Toplica). Some pharmacists from Serbia wanted to move their pharmacies to the new liberated districts but they were not allowed¹⁰. Felcer Naum Marković approached the Ministry of Internal Affairs to legalize his pharmacy in 1879¹¹ while at the same time another request was recorded by an apothecary assistant Nikola Pron who asked the Ministry to grant him a license for the opening of a pharmacy either in Vranje or Leskovac¹¹. A foreigner Pron presented himself as a graduate from Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, he also asked the Municipality for support and material help in cash or help by giving him an apartment to live in. The Minister couldn't offer any financial assistance, and after many months of correspondence he finally got his diploma back on January of 1880³. One of the reasons for him being rejected laid in the Pharmacies and Pharmacists Act of 1865 which allowed only pharmacists and chemistry graduates of Serbian origin or foreigners who obtained Serbian citizenship to open and run pharmacies⁷. The other reason was the fact that a lot of community money was already spent for the building of the local high school (finished in summer of 1933)¹². That is how the first unsuccessful attempt finished leaving Naum's pharmacy as the only one in the municipality of Vranje. According to Mihajlović¹³ Naum's pharmacy was soon taken over by a military pharmacist Petar (Pera) Janković who came to Vranje with the Šumadija corps and he worked alone for some time until 1883 occasionally with many pharmacy assistants who worked in the lack of qualified staff. However, we found an unpublished data from 1879 in the State Archive of Serbia (SAS) which relate to the correspondence between Petar (Pera) Janković and the Ministry of Internal Affairs concerning the application grant for the license (concession) to open his own pharmacy. This correspondence referred to another city – the city of Kragujevac not Vranje. Based on the available preserved data/reports from the SAS, he was granted the concession to start his business in Kragujevac in 1879, but it cannot be concluded with absolute certainty until what month of that year Janković worked in Vranje, *de facto*¹¹ and when he started working in his pharmacy in Kragujevac. Many SAS data are found in relation to medicine refund requests to the Ministry of Internal Affairs concerning the free treatment/full reimbursement of, convicts and poor high-school students from Kragujevac, the local Community Hospital, in the first five years of his working there^{11, 14–17}. Interestingly enough, there is a record from 1879 of his request to be allowed to supply citizens of Vranje and the military hospital in Vranje (later it became a community hospital in Vranje), probably from the period when he still

worked in Vranje. His younger brother, Mihailo Mika Janković was also a pharmacist and he opened the second pharmacy in Vranje in 1892 that was at that time working as a pharmacist in Vranje⁵. After Pera Janković's death in 1900 he was succeeded by his brother Mika Janković after he returned the concession for the Pharmacy in Vranje on April 25, 1901¹⁰. No record could be found to shed light on the fate of the first pharmacy which people used to call Naum Marković's pharmacy. This pharmacy is mentioned as Naum Marković's pharmacy in many archive data until 1884, although there are no data that he received a positive answer to his application for getting of the concession for this pharmacy. Namely, he submitted his application in 1879, probably after pharmacist Petar went to Kragujevac, but since he was an uneducated pharmacist he did not meet the requirements for obtaining a concession. Until the opening of Velimir Karić's pharmacy, who was an educated pharmacist in 1883, Naum's pharmacy was the subject of numerous medical authority controls: "Naum Marković's pharmacy in Vranje was inspected and it was found that there are no drugs that are needed"¹⁴. The head office of Vranje sent an act to the Minister of Internal Affairs informing him that felcer Naum was found for the lack of drugs, and soon the Ministry of Internal Affairs received his appeal against the conviction of Vranje head office¹⁴. There was a problem in Vranje regarding the opening of the first pharmacy, so that Naum's pharmacy was still the only pharmacy in the town in the year to come. In 1881 the problem of Naum Marković's pharmacy was still there for the Ministry of Internal Affairs¹⁸.

In accordance with the Law on Organization of Medical Profession and Public/National Health Protection from 1881, a title was established by the Inspector of the Health Institute in the Medical Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The first inspector was Mladen Janković, who was asked to supervise the conditions of health institutions in Niš, Knjaževac, Pirot, Vranje, Loznica, and to report all his findings to the Minister of International Affairs³. Inspector Mladen Janković visited Vranje in July 1881 and he wrote about his survey of the empirical pharmacy owned by Naum Marković: "There is a pharmacy in Vranje where you can find some medicines but it is poorly equipped. The medicines are not prescribed and it would not be of any use, anyway, because the pharmacist cannot read or write and he has no assistant but a young apprentice. I tried to convince the owner to employ a recently graduated pharmacist as soon as possible and to supply the pharmacy according to the law. If he does that, then the doctor will prescribe medicines from his pharmacy, but if he doesn't accept my suggestions then the pharmacy will have to be closed"³.

In the magazine "National Health" number 40 of March 1881 in the article titled "The Medical Personnel" the answer to the question "Are there pharmacies and how are they arranged?" was that "the number of pharmacies increased for four in 1880. While in 1879 there were 28 public pharmacies, at the end of 1880 there were 32. Physicians say that all are good, while for the one in Vranje they say "fairly good".

It goes without saying that private and hand pharmacies of county doctors are not taken into account. All the apothecaries are mostly graduated pharmacists, only for the one in Vranje the regional physician said: “an absolutely ignorant person who doesn’t even know how to sign his name, or how to measure and without any knowledge of Latin language... (...) therefore, this pharmacy was closed and a new tender was announced”¹⁹.

The second unsuccessful attempt to open a pharmacy in Vranje was a request of a pharmacist Jovan Šteker submitted on October 6, 1880 for obtaining a permit to open a pharmacy in Vranje¹⁸ (Figure 1). According to the Health Law of that time, valid for the pharmacies and pharmacists, possession and selling of drugs and poisons, if a pharmacist did not open a pharmacy within a year he would lose the right to open it. Seeing that a year expired and that he still hadn’t put his pharmacy in order, a pharmacist Jovan Šteker once again addressed to the Ministry of Internal Affairs with a letter requesting the deadline to be extended for a month on September, 11 1881³. His request was rejected, which meant he lost the right to open a pharmacy. That was how the only pharmacy of felcer Naum continued to operate³.

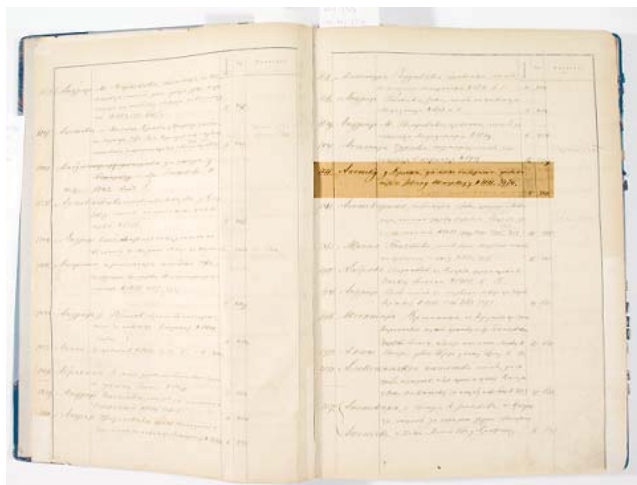


Fig. 1 – The request of Mr Jovan Šteker to prolong his concession for opening of the first pharmacy in Vranje in 1881 – the source originated from the State Archive of Serbia
(The Ministry of Internal Affairs, Sanitary Department. SN 1771, Belgrade, 1881).

Establishment of the first community pharmacy and its owners

The development of education in pharmacy practice in Vranje started with coming of an educated pharmacist Velimir Karić, who in 1883 got a concession (state approval for the management of a pharmacy which referred to a given pharmacist and true for the municipality, city or location) and opened the first pharmacy in Vranje³.

Such a terrible situation in the pharmacy branch in Vranje region needed to be stopped, and pharmaceutical activity harmonized with the (former) Law of that time. Presumably, on the request of Dr. Mladen Janković, the inspector of the Sanitary Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs “an announcement for opening of a pharmacy in Vranje” was published on October 26, 1881, which read: “Under Article 24, point 2, second indent of the Act of March 30 of this year, dealing with the arrangement of medical profession and preservation of public health, The Minister of the Internal Affairs publishes this announcement for the opening of a pharmacy in Vranje. We invite all those who have the ability to hold/manage a pharmacy specified in paragraph 6 of the Article 24 (“to open and maintain a pharmacy shall be allowed only to those pharmacists who present valid master’s degree in pharmacy and at the same time consistently proved to have been overzealous in pharmacy practice and good governance, to enjoy Serbian citizenship, and to have wherewithal to open a regular pharmacy”) to report to the Ministry of the Internal Affairs with all the documents which are required by paragraph 6 of the Article 24 of the said Act not later than November, 15 of this year. The priority to the concession belongs to the sons of this country, then to the Serbs from abroad, and only if those were unavailable, then other options would be considered¹⁹ (Figure 2).

Velimir Karić applied to the announcement¹⁵. He was a pharmacist born in a clerk’s family in Kragujevac in 1859¹. On the list submitted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs to the Ministry of Defence, which asked for a report on the number of pharmacies and the number of staff, because of an urgent scheduling of military-medical personnel during April 1876, there was Velimir Karić as a seventeen-year-old prac-

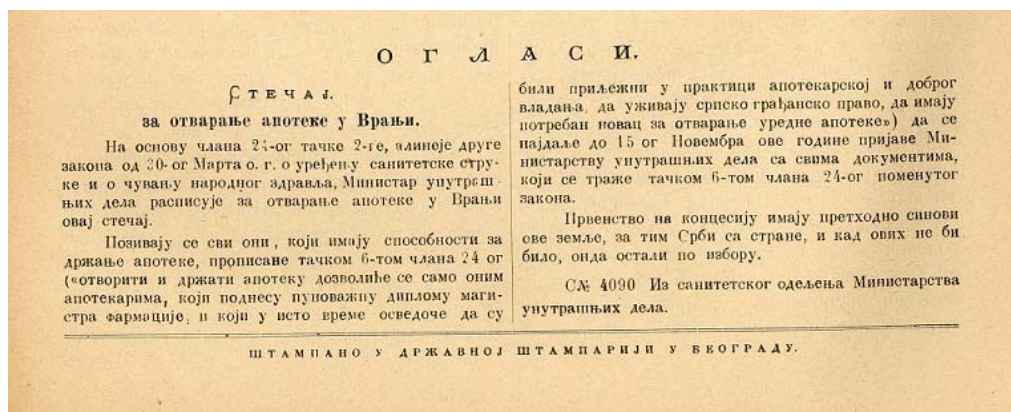


Fig. 2 – Official paper announcement for the opening of a pharmacy in Vranje
[Source: The State Archive of Serbia – Narodno zdravlje 1881; 21 (October 26, 1881)].

tioner in Mase pharmacy of late Mr Filipović in Šabac, where, "he has practiced for 2 years and 8 months; he did not finish school but he can be used as a pharmacy assistant". Velimir Karić was entered as a pharmacy assistant onto the list of 42 other pharmacists and pharmacy staff who took part in the first Serbian-Turkish war in 1876–1877⁶.

He studied pharmacy in Vienna, and after graduating in 1882, he got a concession to open the first pharmacy in Vranje. After acquiring the concession, within the statutory time of a year he started to prepare and organize his pharmacy. While preparing the opening of his pharmacy, Karić experienced minor unpleasantness from Felcer Naum. When in the early autumn of 1882 he completed the arrangement of his pharmacy, he sent a letter to the Ministry of Internal Affairs on October 6, asking: "Please close the pharmacy of Mr Naum Marković since I Velimir Karić am ready to open the pharmacy for which I got the concession"¹⁵. It meant that his pharmacy, which he acquired by concession, was ready for the opening. On October 21, 1882, the Ministry of Internal Affairs corresponded to the district officers in Vranje: "Recommend Naum to settle with Karić, or all his drugs would be confiscated"¹³. In accordance with the former practice during the liquidation of the pharmacy, the new pharmacist came to an agreement with the doctors who owned the hand pharmacies about an agreeable repurchase of all the existing drugs. Felcer Naum and the pharmacist Karić carried out the liquidation of the existing pharmacy. After that, on December 17, in 1882 the pharmacist Karić officially asked for a commission of the Ministry of Internal Affairs which was to accomplish control of the newly opened pharmacy. In the bookkeeping journal of the Sanitary Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs under the number 6708 of December 17th, 1882 it says "It was approved through the district office to keep the pharmacy and the commission/board will be appointed"¹⁵. Velimir Karić's pharmacy began to work on January 27, 1883; 27 days after the Ministry gave its permission². The commission which was supposed to inspect the pharmacy and give an official permission for its work started from Belgrade only towards the end of 1883, headed by a state chemist Dr Šams, and in each place in Serbia they formed commissions after the instructions given by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. As for Vranje, there is no available information saved on *de jure* release of the pharmacy. It was recorded that after the inspection of the pharmacies in Palanka, Čuprija, Aleksinac, Niš, Leskovac and Vranje in 1884, only the subject-inspection of Velimir Karić's pharmacy was transferred under the number N 9217 for 1894¹⁷.

It can be considered that the inspection of Vranje pharmacy was completed by the end of January 1884, when the pharmacy was also put into operation *de jure*³. During the research in the bookkeeping journal of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for 1883 we found several references to Karić pharmacy such as an invoice for the medicines bills. One invoice was for the dispensed medicines for January, February, March and April to the County Hospital in Vranje, and the other one for the following months issued on August, 18 1883¹⁶. As a very prominent figure in Vranje and Vranje Region he was elected a Member of Parliament in 1897. He

was a member of the parliamentary delegation which brought King Petar Karadorđević from Geneva in 1903. Due to his political activities he decided to move to Belgrade, and in 1905 he returned the concession for Vranje and took over a pharmacy in Belgrade. After going to Belgrade, Velimir Karić became the president of the Serbian Apothecary Society, where in 1919 participated in a decision making to purchase all the necessary medications abroad as soon as possible and to distribute the same to the pharmacies in the country²⁰.

City pharmacy's owners

The first pharmacy in Vranje changed owners frequently in the first three decades of its operation. Pharmacist Jovan Jovanović took over the first pharmacy in Vranje from Velimir Karić after his departure to Belgrade. Pharmacist Jovanović completed his pharmacy studies in Gratz in 1890. He worked in Vranje from 1906 to 1910. He was noticed for consulting that he gave to chronic patients, and for his humane attitude towards the poor. He died in 1912¹³.

Pharmacist Borivoje Marić became the third owner of the first pharmacy in Vranje, who took over the pharmacy from Jovan Jovanović in 1911¹³. He was born in Smederevo and completed his pharmacy studies in Gratz. He came to work in Vranje just before the beginning of the Balkan War, when there was the devastating epidemic of typhoid in Vranje and the whole town was turned into a refugee camp. He gave the poor patients and the refugees medicines for free. Mr. Marić's pharmacy did not work during the Bulgarian occupation. After the liberation in 1922, pharmacist Marić handed his pharmacy over to his colleague Aleksandar Devedžić, the first pharmacy owner from Vranje¹², while he went to live and work in Paraćin¹¹.

Aleksandar Devedžić was the first man from Vranje who started the pharmacy business in the first pharmacy in Vranje (Figure 3). Although there are no archive proofs about its location, it is supposed that Mr. Velimir Karić's pharmacy was on the same place where the pharmacy of Mr. Aleksandar Devedžić.

He was born in Vranje in 1895 and graduated in Zagreb in 1922¹³. After graduating he immediately took over the first pharmacy in Vranje from his colleague Bora Marić. Canko's pharmacy, as it was called by the people in Vranje, was remembered as a benefactor's and healer's pharmacy, where you could heal all human pain. After eight years of work Aleksandar moved to Skopje and he handed his pharmacy to be ran by Stojadin Milenković¹². However, after the liberation in 1945, Devedžić returned to Vranjska Banja where he was appointed the manager of Vranjska Banja. He began to work on the opening of the first pharmacy in Vranjska Banja, but his sudden death in 1964 prevented him from seeing its realization. Aleksandar Devedžić was the manager of the pharmacy in Bosilegrad till the end of October 1960²¹.

Pharmacist Stojadin Milenković was born in Vranje, he finished pharmacy studies in Zagreb in 1924. Like the previous pharmacists, first of all he opened a cosmetic laboratory where he was making a large number of different cosmetic



Fig. 3 – The pharmacy of Aleksandar Devedžić – the fourth owner of the first pharmacy in Vranje who worked and owned the pharmacy between 1922–1930 – supposed to be the pharmacy on the same location as it was later on the pharmacy of Mr Velimir Karić.

(Source: Historical Archive of Vranje “January 31” Vranje: Administration and Public Services, Municipal Assembly).

products. Stojadin Milenković was elected a member of the City National Board in Vranje on October 14, 1948, and he took part in the adoption of the proposal about the opening of the People’s Pharmacy in Vranje (Figure 4) ²². His pharmacy

had the newest medicines. In 1949 he gave his pharmacy to social control, and he took over the management of one of the pharmacies that were in the social management. He worked in the People’s Pharmacy in Vranje from July 13, 1949 to October 15, 1963 when he moved to Belgrade with his family ²³.

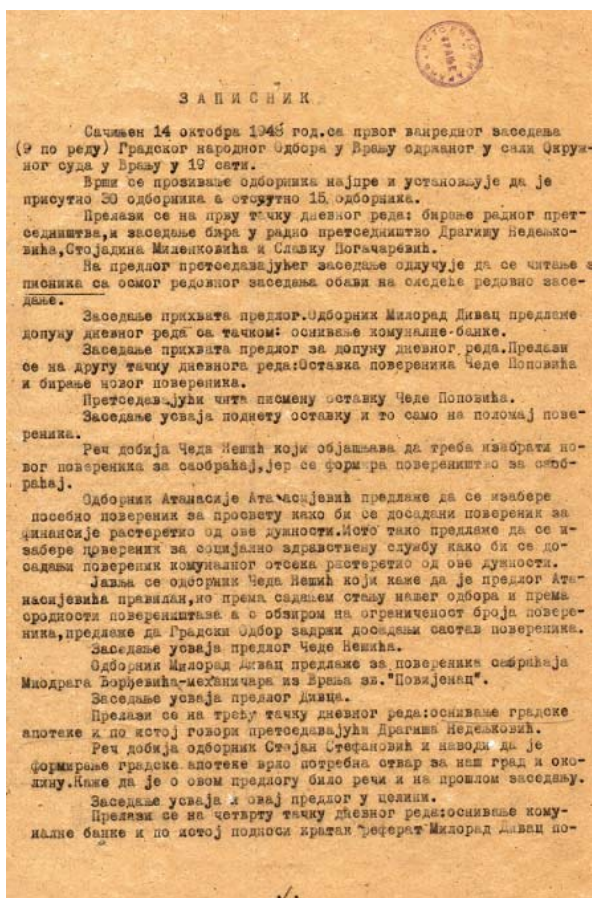


Fig. 4 – Establishment of the state-owned city pharmacy in Vranje on October 14, 1948. (Source: Historical Archive of Vranje “January 31” Vranje. Administration and Public Services, Municipal Assembly).

Conclusion

Most of the resources we consulted proved that the pharmacy of Mr. Velimir Karić was the first one with the educated pharmacist opened according to the decision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in 1883. Yet, it may be argued with a great historical certainty that even before that period there had been a pharmacy in Vranje, held by unsatisfactory educated authority, felcer Naum Marković. Over a very short period of time, between 1878–1879, there worked the educated pharmacist, Petar Janković, who came to Vranje with military corps. The matter of expertise in pharmaceutical preparation in such an apothecary shop was on the agenda many times when Naum Marković’s pharmacy was inspected. Upon all the results and findings it could be concluded that opening the pharmacy of Karić was a turning point in the development of pharmacy in the district. Although there are no archive records where Mr. Velimir Karić located his pharmacy shop in the city, it has to be supposed that the pharmacy of Mr. Velimir Karić was on the same place as the pharmacy of Mr. Aleksandar Devedžić. Hence, we found no records of the change of the apothecary shop location in that time. It was privately owned until the Nationalization Law in 1949. Besides, Mr. Karić, the pharmacists working with the Military Hospital (later transformed into the County Hospital with a separate military pharmacy operated from 1878 to 1883) were also preparing and supplying the medicines for the outpatients, so it could be concluded that the citizens of Vranje did not lack safe treatment and treatment outcomes in this region.

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