

BATAWIA Ludwik (1872-1939), doctor, city councillor, hospital director and chief physician, communal and independence activist. He was born on 4th July 1872 in Opoczno, the son of Salomon (10th December 1835 Opoczno -), a trader, and Róża née Landau Gutenteger (15th April 1841 Częstochowa -). He was the brother of Frajdla (1867 Opoczno -) and Mojżesz Maksymilian (2nd December 1869 Opoczno – 12th January 1932 Warsaw).

In 1890, Batawia graduated from the Russian Boys' *Gimnazjum* in Częstochowa and entered the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Warsaw. He attained his medical degree on 10th February 1896. After a year of practice in Berlin clinics, he came to Częstochowa, where he opened his own private practice. From that same year, he became a member of a self-educating medical circle which, in 1901, was transformed into the Częstochowa Medical Association (TLCz). Batawia was one its most active members. During 1901–14, he appeared at almost thirty meetings, delivering lectures and giving demonstrations on the most difficult of cases. In the years 1903–08, he served as the librarian of the TLCz. In 1912, due to his membership of the Polish Medical Union (ZLP), he left the TLCz, but returned to its ranks in November 1913.

As a member of the TLCz, in May-June 1908, he took part in the Laryngology Congress in Vienna and, in 1909, in the International Congress of Doctors in Budapest. He also took part in the First and Second Congress of Provincial Doctors in the Kingdom of Poland - in Łódź (4th-5th June 1911), where he delivered a paper entitled *On Fevers Originating from the Tonsils*, and in Lublin (31st May – 1st June 1914). From 1902, he belonged to the Warsaw Hygiene Society (WTH) – in 1903–14, he served as its secretary. During a meeting of the WTH, held on 18th October 1903, he delivered a lecture entitled *The Disinfection of Apartments Following Infectious Diseases* (published in *Zdrowiu* 1903, No. 12, p. 1374), in which he emphasised the fact that a disinfection chamber had been put into use in Częstochowa and stressed the need for disinfection following any infectious disease. He presented lectures in the field of hygiene and medicine many times at WTH meetings, as well as to wider audiences, including at the "Lutnia" headquarters, in the hall of the Volunteer Fire Brigade (SOO) as well as in the hall of the B. Hantke "Częstochowa" Steelworks in Raków. In 1909, during the Industry and Agriculture Exhibition in Częstochowa, he was a member of the hygiene section committee of the general culture section. In 1910, he was the organiser of the Anti-Tuberculosis Exhibition in Częstochowa.

Batawia was involved in pro-independence and political activities. In 1904, he joined the PPS, which was active in the underground. He was a member of the PPS Intelligence Circle. During the 1904-05 street demonstrations in

Częstochowa, he provided medical attention to injured workers. In August 1906, as a member of the Polish School Committee, he took part in the establishment of the No.1 Polish *Gimnazjum* in Częstochowa. In January 1907, prior to the elections to the Russian State *Duma*, he was a member of the Progressive Union Electoral Committee.

He was active in the field of education. In 1906, he was one of the founders of the Society for the Spreading of Knowledge (TSzW), for which he financially supported its E. Orzeszkowa Library and Reading Room. He also donated funds supporting underprivileged students at the No.1 Polish *Gimnazjum*. For many years, Batawia was vice-president of the "Dobroczyńność" Charitable Society for Jews (TDdŻ), as well as a member of the Welfare Council and doctor for the Crafts School for Jews. He conducted free classes at the *Talmud Torah*. Together with → Dr. Edward Kon, he watched over the activities of the Horticulture Farm. In 1908-13, he was a member of the Finance Committee for the building of the TDdŻ Hospital in Częstochowa. From the hospital's opening on 16th November 1913 until June 1939, he served as the hospital's director and chief physician. In 1913-14, he was a member of the Częstochowa Municipal Sanitation Commission.

Following the outbreak of war, in the autumn of 1914, he joined the committee of "Emergency Aid" and, as one of many doctors in Częstochowa, he provided free-of-charge medical attention to the city's poorer inhabitants. Evidence of the city population's harsh living conditions during the war were, among others, two cases, in the Jewish Hospital, of dropsy caused by hunger, presented by Batawia at a meeting of the Częstochowa Medical Association (TLCz). From 1915, he worked as a doctor in two state schools.

He continued to be active in the spreading of education. In 1915-17, he lectured in anatomy in self-education courses run by the local intelligentsia, also organised by the Society for the Promotion of Education Amongst Jews. From 1917, he was a member of the Welfare Council of the H. Sienkiewicz *Gimnazjum*. In the second half of that year, he belonged to the "School Delegation" in the Częstochowa City Council. In 1918, he was one of the signatories of an appeal for donations towards the building of the Dr. W. Biegański Library.

He was known for his dedication as a physician to soldiers fighting to protect the country's border. During the 1919-1921 Śląsk Uprisings, as a contract doctor and head of the Jewish Hospital, he cared for almost one hundred wounded rebels. In 1920, during the Polish-Bolshevik War, he worked as a volunteer

doctor in the Częstochowa garrison hospital (in Dom Księcia, at ul. Kościuszki 58). Later, he was also employed as a doctor of the *Powiatowa Kasa Chorych* (County Health Fund). He continued to be active in the TLCz and ZLP professional association. In October 1922, as a representative of the ZLP, he participated in talks with the management of the Health Fund regarding the remuneration of doctors. He was a member of a special commission which, in 1922, developed a new constitution for the TLCz. In 1927, he was a member of a commission to commemorate the anniversary of the passing of Dr. W. Biegański.

In April of that same year, at a ceremonial session of the [TLCz.], he celebrated thirty years of professional work. Funds raised from the event was allocated to the Dr. Bielgański Scholarship Fund. In 1924-25, when the TLCz began to organise clinical sessions, Batawia was the organiser of two such in the ENT Department which he managed. From 1930, he was a member of the Board and, in 1935-39, he held the position of vice-president of the TLCz. In 1932, he became an honorary member of that organisation. In 1921-31, in medical journals, he published seven articles on ENT topics. In January 1927, as a member of the Society for the Protection of the Health of the Jewish Population in Poland (TOZ), together with doctors E. Kon and Karol Rożkowski, he led to the establishment of a clinic for tuberculosis patients at the Jewish Hospital. He belonged to the Polish Red Cross (PCK).

From the 1920s, he was a board member of the Committee to Aid Jewish Students (*Auxilium Academicum Judaicum*). He was also engaged in local government activities. In December 1925, put forward by the United Jewish Electoral Committee, he was elected to the City Council. He was a member of the Cultural-Arts Commission, of the school council and the "Hospital Delegation". He contributed to the Aviation-Sanitation Committee, established at the initiative of the Sanitation Department of the Ministry of Military Affairs. This committee was involved mainly in the collection of funds for the purchase of sanitation planes for the army. He belonged to the *Zw. Żydowskich Obrońców Ojczyzny* [Union of Jewish Defenders of the Homeland]. In 1934 he was president of the Berek Joselewicz Legion. From that same year, he led the TDdŻ. From the 1920s until 1939, Batawia lived in Częstochowa at II Aleja 29. From 1901, he was co-owner of the tenement at II Aleja 26 (the so-called power plant house).

He died in Otwock on 15th June 1939 and was buried in the Jewish cemetery on ul. Okopowa in Warsaw. He was awarded the Medal of Independence (1938).

He married Jadwiga (27th May 1879 Toruń -) née Lewenstein, who belonged to the TSzW and TDdŻ. They had three children - daughters Rozalia Halina (22nd June 1900 Częstochowa -) and Regina Rozalia, married name Kozłowska (14th May 1906 Częstochowa -), a graduate (1924) of the J. Słowacki State Girls' Gimnazjum in Częstochowa, who survived the German occupation and lived with her husband in Częstochowa - son HeNo.yk Bronisław (23rd September 1901 Częstochowa -) who, in 1919, matriculated at the H. Sienkiewicz State Gimnazjum in Częstochowa and who, in 1928, graduated from the Faculty of Machine Construction at the Warsaw Polytechnic, later becoming an engineer in Warsaw.

Sienkiewiczacy, p. 230 (regarding his son); Szarejko, *Słownik lekarzy polskich*, vol. V, pp. 18-19; *Żydzi polscy w służbie Rzeczypospolitej*, vol. I, pp. 333–334 (biography and photograph). - M. Demel, *Mogły lekarskie na cmentarzach warszawskich*, Medical History Archives 1966, vol. XXIX, issue 4, p. 461; Michalski, *Częstochowa i jej lekarze*, p. 511. - Nowak, *Z moich wspomnień II*, pp. 15-16, 24-25, 48-49, 110, 129, 137-138, 157, 172. - Kociotek, Zaleska, *Gimnazjum i Liceum im. J. Słowackiego*, p. 121 (regarding his daughter, Regina); *Pamiętnik Jubileuszu 25-lecia Tow. Lekarskiego Częstochowskiego 1901-1926*, Częstochowa [b.r.w.], p. 31; *Pamiętnik 70-lecia działalności Tow. Lekarskiego Częstochowskiego*, Częstochowa 1973, pp. 54, 63; *Przewodnik po Wystawie 1909*, p. 184; Wyględowski, Zakrzewski, *Ochrona zdrowia w Częstochowie*, pp. 109, 137, 145, 149–150, 153; Wyględowski, *Chirurgia i chirurdzy*, p. 54, 201. – “Dziennik Częstochowski” 1906, No. 119, p. 3, No. 161, p. 2, No. 296, p. 3; “Dziennik Zarządu m. Częstochowy”, 1926, No. 9, p. 8, No. 10, p. 4; “Gazeta Częstochowska” 1909, No. 95, p. 2, No. 136, p. 8, No. 186, p. 8; “Goniec Częstochowski” 1907, No. 29, p. 3, No. 157, p. 2, 1909, No. 63, P. 2, 1910, No. 67, p. 2, No. 93, p. 3, 1912, No. 48, p. 2, No. 93, p. 2, 1914, No. 47, p. 3, No. 345, p. 3, 1915, No. 13, p. 3, 1917, No. 140, p. 3, 1919, No. 133, p. 3 (dot. syna, HeNo.yka), 1922, No. 81, p. 3, No. 237, p. 3, 1925, No. 14, p. 5, No. 295, p. 5, 1927, No. 8, p. 3, 1931, No. 49, p. 7, 1935, No. 27, p. 3, 1939, No. 138, p. 2; “Kurier Codzienny” 1927, No. 40, p. 3, No. 46, p. 4; “Nad Wartą” 1967, No. 4, p. 6, 1969, No. 1, p. 4, 1989, No. 7, p. 8, No. 10, p. 8, No. 12, p. 3; “Nowy Express Częstochowski” 1928, No. 62, p. 2; “Ostatnie Wiadomości Częstochowskie” 1934, No. 175, p. 6. - *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1913*, pp. 201, 204, 214, 215; *Kursy samokształcenia w Częstochowie. Sprawozdanie z cyklu trzeciego 1916–1917*, Częstochowa 1917, pp. 2, 12; *PCK. Sprawozdanie 1933*, p. 14; *Rocznik Lekarski 1936*, p. 149, 151; *Rocznik oficerski rezerw 1934*, pp. 225, 733 (regarding son Stanisław); *Spis abonentów Państwowej Sieci Telefonicznej 1923*; *Spis abonentów warszawskiej sieci telefonów r. 1938/1939*, p. 21 (regarding his son). – Session minutes book of the Częstochowa Medical Association 1901-1917 (in the TLCz collection); Minuttes Book of the Tow. Szerzenia Wiedzy w Częstochowie 1906–1921, k. 1 (copy in the ODDC collection); APCz, akta stanu cywilnego, akt ur. No. 399/1901 (of Henryk Batawia), No. 261/1900 (of Regina Rozalia Batawia), MagCz 8021; CAW, record of Medal of Independence, vol. 489 (photograph). – Except from City of Częstochowa Civil Register (in the ODDC collection); information from Krzysztof Dziuba of Częstochowa (regarding daughter Regina).

Juliusz Sętowski