

Kopel Kijak

In Częstochowa, as well as in all towns in Poland, there were “*felczerzy*” [paramedics], who treated the sick, even though they had no doctor’s diploma. These were mostly people who had lengthy practical experience and who, oftentimes, surpassed the certified physicians with their professional knowledge.

The Częstochowa *felczer*, Kopel Kijak, was of great renown. He was a specialist in diagnosing illnesses, equalling the most revered professors in this field.

Upon coming to visit a sick person, he always put the patient in a good mood, which he did by talking about different topics, during the course of which he told jokes and aphorisms.

He was up for whole nights with the seriously ill, deploying all his professional skills by giving various injections and saving the patient’s life. The populace had the greatest trust in him, seeing him not only as a good professional, but also as a man with heart and feelings.

Kijak’s family - his sons and son-in-law - were already certified physicians, but they nevertheless drew upon professional knowledge from their father and father-in-law.

Kopel Kijak was also a Jew who knew his [religious] books and, more than once, he would conduct Talmudic discussions, on various quandaries, with *yeshiva* students.

Of Kopel Kijak’s large family, [only] two daughters and a grandson are left, having survived the war in the Częstochowa HASAG camp.