

(Częstochower Wochenblatt - Friday, 31st October 1913.)

The Jewish Hospital

Already, at its very first general meeting on 27th March 1899, when the local Dobroczytność Society was founded, the question of building a Jewish hospital was raised. Henryk Markusfeld, Herman Ginzberg, Dr Edward Kohn, Dr Batawja, as well as the now deceased Leopold Kohn, Dr H. Szpigel and Leopold Werde, were elected to the Committee [which was formed]. Henryk Markusfeld was elected as Committee Chairman.

On 5th December 1900, the Committee purchased, for 7.600 roubles, Grabowski's lot, which located on the way to the Jewish Cemetery. However, after extensive examination, it turned out that this land was unsuitable for the Jewish Hospital for several reasons. They were forced to sell the lot and begin searching for another one.

This was a difficult task, as the Commission wanted the location to be near the city.

It was only in 1907, when the old abattoir was relocated under [orders of] the City, that the hospital Committee opened negotiations with the local municipal authorities to the effect that the plot, next to the [old] abattoir, should be ceded for the Jewish Hospital. This property was particularly well-suited for a hospital as, in that area, the poorer population most lived, for whom the hospital was intended.

Thanks to the local municipal authorities' intercession, on 28th September 1908, permission came, from higher authorities, to give the plot over for the Jewish Hospital completely free of charge.

Having received the grounds, Dobroczytność elected a Building Committee comprised of Dr Józef Markusfeld, Dr Batawja, Dr Aleksander Wolberg, Herman Ginzberg, Markus Gradsztajn, Eng. Karp, Izidor Frajnd, Ludwik Tempel, Stanisław Herc and Leopold Werde.

The committee set to work energetically and gave the blueprints of the building over to Eng. Mankowski to draw up. In making the blueprints, he took into account the eventuality that the wings would be extended over the course of time.

On 1st January 1908, the Society had only 34,000 roubles but, having in mind the abundant contributions which different donors had pledged, the Committee immediately opened negotiations with various firms and, eventually, gave the work over to the following contractors:

- 1) the construction work was given over to the Allert & Buhle Company for 84,000 roubles;*
- 2) central heating, sewerage systems, waterlines, baths, etc. were assigned to the Lubinus, Stein & Co. firm from Katowice for 22,700 roubles;*
- 3) the drainage work was given over to Eng. Deloff for 660 roubles;*
- 4) electric lighting - to the Siła i Światło [Strength & Light] firm for 1,600 roubles;*
- 5) the building of a well - to the [Seweryn] Filus firm for 950 roubles, [and]*
- 6) the building of a fence surrounding the hospital - to W. Rozenwajg for 1,200 roubles.*

All in all, this work was projected to cost 111,130 roubles, without taking into account some 2,000 roubles of unforeseen expenses.

After closing the contracts, on 18th Sivan 5669 [7th June 1909], the cornerstone was laid and the construction began immediately.

Directly, large contributions began to flow in, for example:

- Józef W. Landau – 10,000 roubles;
- the Ginzberg brothers, Berlin – 10,000 roubles;
- Henryk Markusfeld, for the completion of the hospital – 10,000 roubles;
- Paweł Szpigel, in memory of the deceased [Mrs] Gurfinkel - 3,225 roubles;
- Szaja Landau – 3,000 roubles;
- Izydor Gajsler – 3,000 roubles;
- the heirs of Leon Oderfeld – 2,500 roubles;
- the Society for Needy Post-Natal Mothers – 2,100 roubles;
- Ludwik Tempel – 3,000 roubles;
- Jan Grosman – 1,000 roubles;
- the Częstochowa Credit Society – 1,390 roubles;
- the Stradom factory – 1,400 roubles;
- Warta – 1,000 roubles;
- Peltzers – 500 roubles;
- the Rajchman and Zygmant brothers – 500 roubles;
- the heirs of Ludwik Mamlok – 500 roubles;
- the Second Loans and Savings Fund – 326 roubles;
- Samuel Moszkowski – 300 roubles;
- donations pledged – 16,399 roubles;
- smaller donations – 3,128 roubles;
- from the property which had been sold – 8,000 roubles;
- proceeds from the Flower Day [viz. fundraiser¹] – 1,500 roubles;
- from Dobroczytność – 1,800 roubles;
- interest from capital and coupons from the [bond] certificates – 12,349 roubles.

In total (including yet other donations) - 108,749 roubles.

Besides this, 4,741 roubles in donations were collected, by a women's committee, for interior fittings - linen, furniture, etc. Balabanow gave 7,000 roubles to set a pharmacy up at the hospital. Dr Józef Markusfeld, seeing that the grounds surrounding the hospital were full of holes and mounds, at his own expense, had the land levelled and arranged for a beautiful park there in memory of his late wife Emma Markusfeld. This cost him 5,000 roubles.

After all these donations and proceeds had been spent, a total of 20,303 roubles was still owing.

The projected cost of maintaining a hospital with fifty beds is up to 30,000 roubles a year. For this, there are legacies provided such:

- on behalf of Szaja Landau – 10,000 roubles;
- Józef and Helena Landau – 1,000 roubles;
- Wolf and Hinda Landau – 1,000 roubles;
- Szymon and Szarlota Bergman – 2,000 roubles;
- Ludwik Tempel – 2,000 roubles;
- Lazarus and Rozalia Grosman – 5,000 roubles;
- Ludwik and Klara Kohn – 3,000 roubles;
- Adam Bergman – 900 roubles;

¹ [TN: The term "Flower Day" appears regularly throughout the literature in connection with fundraisers; it is very likely that the donors were given a flower as a token of appreciation.]

- Moryc Pruszycki – 250 roubles; donations,
- interest and [bond] coupons – 1,633 roubles.

In total, there was the sum of 26,813 roubles, for which the yearly interest reached 1,411 roubles. The Jewish Kehilla will give 67,000 roubles and the rest of the money², according to our calculations, would come from different donations.

At the latest meeting of Dobroczytność, a resolution was adopted to the effect that the hospital's main wing should bear the name of President Henryk Markusfeld. This ward consists of single rooms, four large general rooms, admission rooms and two large operating theatres. There were beds for fifty patients in this wing.

The second ward contains the outpatient clinic [and] a few admission rooms, as well as the kancelaria [office] and the hospital pharmacy. The third wing, which was to be named after the late Leopold Werde, will be for patients with contagious diseases. The fourth ward is to house the hospital's laundry and mangle³, as well as several rooms for the mentally ill. The last wing serves as lodgings for the hospital staff and [housed] the hospital kitchen. Besides these, there is one small house for the mortuary and some others.

The following [individuals] were chosen as the hospital's physicians: Dr Batawja was to direct the whole hospital; as surgeon – Dr Broniatowski, as well as Doctors Edward Kohn, Stefan Kohn (obstetrician), Waclaw Kohn and Miss Etinger⁴. The paramedics were Messrs Torbeczko and S. Zelten.

The newly-built Jewish Hospital features a glorious building in the latest style and the best technical installations, modelled after the greatest hospitals abroad. The city of Częstochowa may well be proud of it.

We have received this entire account regarding the Jewish Hospital from the secretaries of the Jewish Kehilla, Messrs Faust and Markowicz.

On Sunday, 16th November 1913, the new Jewish Hospital was opened. Cantor Abram-Ber Birenbaum, accompanied by the choir, sang "*Mizmor Shir Chanukas [HaBayis]*" ["A psalm; a song of dedication of the House"; Psalm 30]. Speeches were delivered by Rabbi Nachum Asz, Henryk Markusfeld, Mayor Głazek, Dr Batawja [and] Dr Zaks.

A banquet was held for the guests at Ickowicz's confectionary.

² [TN: Viz. the money needed to ensure the annual budget for years to come; the aforementioned sums were apparently one-time donations.]

³ [TN: Large roll weighted with stones for pressing water out of laundry.]

⁴ [TN: "Fräulein Doktor Etinger," in the original, to indicate that she was an unmarried female physician; we wished to avoid stringing two honorifics together in the main text.]