

**EIGER** Marian - actually Abram Majer - (1873-1939), pseudonym "Czarnecki". Doctor, physiologist, socialist activist, Polish Army officer, academic teacher. He was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1873 in Częstochowa, the son of Jakub Kiwa Eiger (1835-1888) and Franciszka Fajgla (1836-1894) née Mendelsohn.

Eiger came from a well-known Jewish family, being the great-grandson of Rabbi Akiwa Eiger (1761-1837). His father, Jakub, was a speculator. Having huge financial resources at his disposal, he bought and sold real estate with large profits. The family stayed in Częstochowa until the beginning of the 1880s. His father then became one of the pioneers of the cement industry in Poland. In 1884, the Eiger family established a cement plant in Wysoka near Zawiercie.

Eiger spent his early childhood in Częstochowa. Here, he began his school education and continued it in other cities. He attended *gimnazjum* in Warsaw, which is where he enrolled in medical studies at the Russian University of Warsaw. During this period, he participated in cultural and educational work amongst Polish youth. He continued his studies in Dorpat and then in Moscow. There, in 1899, he gained his medical diploma and left for Berlin for an internship.

At the beginning of 1902, he joined Social-Democracy of the Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania (SDKPiL) and served as cashier in the party's Foreign Commission. In the following year, he participated (as Congress Secretary) in the 4<sup>th</sup> SDKPiL Congress. He was one of the party's leading activists. When (after the outbreak of the Russian-Japanese War), in 1904, he was conscripted into the Russian army as a military doctor, he returned to Poland and then went to the front. During the siege of Port Arthur, he was wounded and, in early October 1904, he returned to Berlin via Singapore.

He resumed his party activity, but soon left for Warsaw. From 1907, he worked at the Dzieciątka Jezus Hospital. In 1909, he received his medical doctorate in Moscow and, a year later, he began working as an assistant at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków.

It was then that he met Józef Piłsudski and, under his influence, he became involved in the Polish independence movement. In 1913, he began teaching in Bern and began research in human physiology. After 1918, he returned to Poland and, in 1919-23, he served as a doctor in the Polish Army. After leaving the army, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, he took up the physiology chair at the Stefan Batory University in Wilno. He worked there until he retired in 1938,

after which he returned to Warsaw. Eiger was the author and co-author of many academic works. He belonged to the Friends of Science Society in Wilno and to the Polish Psychiatric Society. He was vice-chairman of the Shareholders Council of the Portland Cement Factory in Wysoka.

He died on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1939 in Krynica and was buried in the Warsaw Jewish Cemetery on ul. Okopowa (his grave no longer exists). He was awarded the Medal of Independence.

*Słownik biograficzny działaczy polskiego ruchu robotniczego*, vol. II, p. 27; *Słownik judaistyczny*, vol. 1, p. 369. - *Żydowska mozaika polityczna w Polsce 1917–1927 (a selection of documents)*, selection and work by C. Brzoza, Kraków 2003, p. 160. – APCz, nit No. 58, birth record No. 131/1873.

**Wiesław Paszkowski**