

**HELMAN** Dawid Lejb (1875–1942), doctor, activist of Jewish self-government, social activist. He was born on 3rd May 1875 in Częstochowa, the son of → Jakub, a merchant, and Estera née Rozenberg.

He graduated at the State Boys' Gimnazjum in Częstochowa and then, in 1899, studied medicine at the University of Warsaw, where he gained his medical degree. After completing his internship in 1902, he moved to Łódź. He was drafted into the Russian army and served in a military hospital in the Far East during the 1904-1906 Russian-Japanese War. In 1914-1917, as a medical officer, he again served in the Russian army. During the November 1917 Revolution, he found himself in Czerniowice. He provided medical care to the Polish population there. He was elected to the local council and chaired the cultural and education committee, which operated in the Polish House. He served, until mid-1918, in various military hospitals, then left St. Petersburg for home

At the end of that same year, he joined the Polish Army and was a doctor in the 29<sup>th</sup> Riflemen Regiment of Kaniow. In Łódź, he headed the laryngology department of the District Hospital. Until 1939, he also worked at the Łódź Council for the Cancer Control. He also ran a private practice. Helman sat on the economics committee of the Department of Public Health. In 1926–28, he chaired the Łódź branch of the Society of Otolaryngologists and was deputy of the Łódź Medical Chamber. He was a member of the board of the Łódź branch of the Society for the Protection of the Health of the Jewish Population in Poland TOZ.

He lived at ul. Piotrkowska 68. After the German administration was established in Łódź, on 5th November 1939, he became of member of the *Judenrat*. He was arrested in 11<sup>th</sup> November of that year, but was soon released. In February 1940, he joined the second *Judenrat* through which he headed the *Gmina* Health Department, a position he held unto; 30<sup>th</sup> April 1940. He was deputy head of the Council of Elders in the Łódź ghetto and, later, worked as a doctor. He died on 14th November 1942.

His wife was Paulina Perła née Herszberg (1888 Kutno - 1944), who perished in the German concentration camp in Auschwitz. They had three children - Maria (25<sup>th</sup> January 1907 Łódź-), Lidia (31<sup>st</sup> December 1910 Łódź-) and Emilia (7<sup>th</sup> May 1913 Łódź-).

Kempa, Szukalak, *Żydzi dawnej Łodzi*, vol. I, p. 65. – *Rocznik lekarski 1933/34*, col. 427, here as Daniel (Dawid). – APCz, unit no. 58, record No. 66/1875. – Materials (extract from the civil registers) for ODDC collections.

**Juliusz Sętowski**