

Izrail Buchman

The Jewish Hospital's Financial Crisis

There were two centres of medical assistance in Częstochowa: the "TOZ" Society and the Jewish hospital. The Jewish hospital was founded by Henryk Markusfeld, the great philanthropist, in memory of his parents. The hospital was well-organised and granted maximum assistance to those who were poor and without means, not only from Częstochowa, but also from the entire vicinity, even including those seriously ill, who had long stays in the hospital.

Until 1934, the hospital was maintained with *Kehilla* subsidies and by a tax on part of the Jewish population. The hospital's financial situation was never an elevated one but, in 1934, it suffered a sharp financial crisis. The municipal authorities were waiting for the opportunity to take the hospital out of the hands of the Jewish community and to turn it into a municipal hospital, and there was a great danger that the municipal authorities would have their way.



The Jewish hospital's medical personnel

A meeting of communal activists was called, together with the hospital's management, as well as that of "TOZ". The hospital's difficult situation was described, as was the impending danger that no other option would be left but to give in to the pressure of the municipal authorities.

In accordance with a proposal by Alter Boms, Szmul Frank, Adv. Asz and Izrail Buchman, that a vigorous fundraiser needed to be conducted amongst the Jewish population, the meeting agreed to implement a house-to-house mass-collection for the hospital. The fundraiser induced

sympathy from all social strata. The Jews of Częstochowa, even from the poorest classes, participated in the collection of funds.

(Thus the hospital was saved and remained in Jewish hands, until the bloody slaughter of all these donors, together with the patients and the entire medical staff.)